

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos*.

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Review of the Week.

THOUSANDS of hearts will be lightened, thousands of faces will be brightened, this Christmas by the telegraphic news from India. Lucknow—on which our anxiety has so long centred—is finally relieved. Unfortunately, the details of the occurrences which brought about this glorious result are imperfect in the despatches; but the great and joyous fact being established, we can wait patiently for perfected details. Sir COLIN CAMPBELL joined the forces at Alumbagh on the 12th of November, and on the 17th, after a series of severe engagements—six in number—with the enemy, he succeeded in relieving Lucknow. Sir COLIN himself was slightly wounded. On the following day the whole of the sick, wounded, women, and children were escorted to Cawnpore. So ends this glorious defence.

Sir COLIN CAMPBELL has now nothing to divert him from the vigorous prosecution of the campaign in Oude, for which he has about twelve thousand men. Brigadier STUART has been active with the Malwa field force, and has dispersed the Mehdipore rebels; and Brigadier SHOWERS, with Colonel COTTON, is scouring Rohilkund. Troops are steadily pouring into India, and alarm is no longer felt for our outlying stations and garrisons.

From Delhi we hear that twenty-four inferior members of the royal family had been executed. The Jodhpore Legion had been defeated by Gerard, who fell in action. Saugor had not been attacked.

The East India Company has had notice to quit; the Chairman and the Deputy-Chairman had an interview with Lord PALMERSTON on Saturday, and received from him notice that in the present session a bill would be introduced to place the Indian territories under the direct Government of the QUEEN. This announcement, of course, supersedes any of the minor questions which have been raised out of doors. The proposals of the Indian Reform Association have been less specific than anything which Lord PALMERSTON's Cabinet is likely to introduce. A measure of the kind will of course have to encounter an extraordinary amount of opposition. The interests at stake are of the greatest magnitude, and men are not likely to relinquish their property without making a struggle. Independently of the money value of the property, there are certain honours and distinctions attached to the offices and proprietary of the East India Company.

which no money payment could compensate. The proprietors of the East India stock, unlike the proprietors of the Three per Cents., have a vote, a right of public debate, and a certain nominal control over the government of India and of the East India Company. A very numerous class in this country, which is quite independent of interested feeling, is of opinion that a commercial body, emanating from the middle class, both secures a greater amount of talent for the administration of India, and also protects the public against a monopoly of patronage by the upper classes. Such representations, and others, will of course be brought forward to resist the progress of the measure; and if Lord PALMERSTON brings in a bill, it is most probable that HER MAJESTY's Opposition will propose to throw it out.

A tremendous report comes from Hanover, that a commission of three English judges, appointed by Lord CLARENDON, has decided that the long-standing claim of the royal family of Hanover to the major part of the jewels worn on state occasions by her Majesty Queen VICTORIA, must be admitted. It is explained that when GEORGE I. came to the throne of this country, he brought with him the royal jewels of Hanover, which were inalienable from that throne; from his own privy purse he added to the collection, and, upon his death, the whole descended to his Queen, CHARLOTTE, by whom they were left to be returned to the royal family of Hanover. Why they remained in possession of his successor does not appear; but it is stated that repeated applications for them have been made. Upon the ascension of the QUEEN, her uncle, the King of HANOVER, made a demand for the delivery of the jewels; but no result was arrived at. On the death of ERNEST, his son, the present King of HANOVER, renewed the family claim; and, according to the Hanover tale, his claim has been admitted. Nothing official has transpired with reference to the matter, and we shrewdly suspect some error; but there does appear to be a foundation of fact for the fiction. Queen VICTORIA, however, is the last person to wear another man's crown, or to be a beggar to Hanover for her state head-dress.

From America we have the message and rather stirring intelligence from the outposts. President BUCHANAN surveys the Union and its condition, exposing the commercial excesses, explaining the complications in Kansas, proclaiming the temporary success of the rebel BRIGHAM YOUNG in defying the Republic, and reporting on the foreign relations. No present action is possible in regard to the com-

mercial crisis. In Kansas the President is changing the Government, making such arrangements as render it probable that the State may at last be practically organized; and for **BRIGHAM YOUNG** he proposes to prepare four additional regiments.

The Turkish Government has taken advantage of the excitement which has prevailed in all the meetings of the Moldo-Wallachian Diets to address a circular of instructions to its representatives at the European Courts. It is anxious lest the Divans should lose sight of the limited purposes for which they were brought together, and act as if they considered themselves 'a constituted body,' a state of things which would embarrass the proceedings of the Conferences. Therefore, it instructs its ambassadors to insist upon the necessity for dissolving the Diets the moment the European commission shall have sent in its report—whatever it may be.

Spain gives us a fine illustration of etiquette. Towards the close of last year a bitter quarrel took place between General NARVAEZ and Señor GUELL Y RENTE, in the course of which NARVAEZ grossly insulted the latter at the house and in the presence of a lady, a mutual friend. The circumstance caused some stir at the time, and was noticed by the correspondents of the French and English press. Señor GUELL Y RENTE sent a challenge to NARVAEZ, who accepted it, and the time, place, and weapons (small swords), were agreed upon. But NARVAEZ was appointed President of the Council, which, of course, adjourned the meeting indefinitely. After waiting for twelve months, and until NARVAEZ was released from the restraints of office, Señor GUELL Y RENTE wrote to him, calling upon him to fulfil the terms of the arrangements which had been previously made by their respective seconds. The letter led to new arrangements being made; but a dispute has arisen as to the weapons to be used. Señor GUELL Y RENTE in the first instance chose the sword, which was accepted by NARVAEZ; but the Duke's seconds now desire to substitute pistols, fearing, it is to be presumed, that their principal's age and imperfect eyesight would put him at too great a disadvantage with his antagonist. In this state of the affair—and possibly seeing no other remedy—Señor GUELL Y RENTE publishes the documents referred to, in which, notwithstanding the proved bravery of General NARVAEZ, he appears to have great advantages over his personal as well as political opponent in respect of temper and generosity.

Mr. CONINGHAM, M.P., has been informed by Sir GEORGE GREY that THOMAS POOLEY, who was sen-

tenced at the Bodmin Summer Assizes to one year and nine months' imprisonment for the alleged offence of blasphemy, has received a free pardon; Sir GEORGE GREY having advised her Majesty to that effect. Mr. CONINGHAM had presented to the Home Office a memorial from Brighton on this matter.

The inhabitants of the parish of St. George's, Hanover-square, have witnessed more sharp debate among their ward representatives on the question between economy and public comfort. The advocates of effective administration, headed by Dr. BREWER and Mr. BERTOLACCI, have succeeded in obtaining a committee of fifteen to conduct a formal inquiry.

Another reform has emanated from volunteers. A memorial has been presented to Lord PALMERSTON, and has been published, proposing an educational franchise. The scheme is exceedingly peculiar. Almost all Reform Bills have contemplated some kind of qualification which would enable the voter to give his voice for the members of the borough or county in which he lived or held his property. The universities are represented, and it has been proposed to extend the representation to other bodies of a similar kind, as the London University, or the Queen's College in Ireland; but we now have for the first time any well supported suggestion for a perfectly new constituency, extending over the whole of Great Britain, formed exclusively of educated persons, and returning special members added to the present House of Commons. If the scheme had originated with any Radical, or any member of the working classes, it would have been exposed to nothing but ridicule, as 'revolutionary,' fanciful, 'utopian.' It can, indeed, bear no comparison, in point of practical character, to the People's Charter. It is a suggestion to give seventy members, as the representatives of a separate class throughout the country, who may be called the class of 'competent persons.' Supported as it is by the most eminent names in the Church, in both Houses of Parliament, in the professions, and amongst savans and littérateurs, it has been received by the public as scarcely worth attention; any attention that it has had has been given to the names attached to it, not to the measure.

Lord DERBY's good-natured little *canard* about the letter to the Peninsular and Oriental Company has been fairly run down at last. Interrogated by Mr. WATERFIELD of the India Board, Mr. HOWELL, of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, answers that he never heard of any letter of the kind spoken of; and Mr. ALLEN, also of the same Company, affirms that he 'never heard of a letter, or received a message direct from the Board of Control to the effect named by Lord DERBY'; but, he adds, that while the subject of the conveyance of troops by the Egyptian route was on the *lapis* at the office of his company, he remembers some reference being made, at one of the interviews, to some communication—whether verbal or written he cannot remember—which had been received at the *India House* from the Board of Control. On application to Mr. R. W. MANGLES, the President of the Board of Directors, Mr. VERNON SMITH has been so happy as to get what will stand for a good final answer to Lord DERBY, and at the same time open an interesting question, namely, what will his lordship say now?—Mr. MANGLES's answer is, that the only application he remembers Mr. VERNON SMITH to have made at the period referred to, related to 'certain details of the arrangement which had been concluded, such as the certainty of an ample supply of provisions throughout the passage, and the like.'

Several great trials have been brought to a conclusion during the week. The *affaire JEUFOSSE*, at Evreux, is in every way remarkable. The successful defence set up by the advocate of the accused is calculated to fill the English mind with astonishment; it was, that GUILLOT, the man killed, was a forcible trespasser upon Madame de JEUFOSSE's grounds and premises, and that the law gave her the right to protect herself and family from the nocturnal molestation of the would-be seducer, as much as it gave her the right to defend her property from the attacks of the midnight robber endeavouring to carry off property from her house or grounds. And the jury decided that Madame de JEUFOSSE was justified in instructing her gamekeeper to shoot a scoundrel who had lyingly bragged of having disrespected the daughter of an ancient house, and sought by any means to make good his villainous boast. The *Times* says—and possibly says truly—

that, in England, a ducking in a horse-pond would be the punishment awarded by society for the offence of which GUILLOT was guilty; but it is a national feeling alone that can determine the nation's 'point of honour,' and in treating GUILLOT like a dog, perhaps there has been little outrage *dinner* to the universal idea of justice.

The man JOHN BEALE has been found guilty of murdering the woman whose body was discovered in the Leigh Woods near Bristol. The only point upon which his counsel could lay any stress was that his identity with the man who was last seen with her was not clearly proved; but evidence in other respects was piled against him by nearly twenty witnesses, and his counsel, while he endeavoured to show that no motive for the murder had been made out, was obliged to admit that the possession of the murdered woman's clothes by the accused was only to be accounted for on the supposition that she had gone away with somebody else and left her clothes in BEALE's keeping. Mr. Justice WILLES might well express his satisfaction with the verdict of the jury.

In the law courts we have had several remarkable cases. The extraordinary libel case in Ireland—'*STREVENS v. CAMPION*'—is going on, without much chance of its being brought to a conclusion before Christmas. The defendant, according to the latest intelligence, had been nearly two days under examination, and his account of the state of affairs between the plaintiff, STREVENS, and his aunt, the murdered Mrs. KELLY, is certainly damaging to the plaintiff—none the less from the fact that much of it was objected to by the counsel on the other side. At present, it appears that CAMPION, after giving up his profession to take charge of Mrs. KELLY's affairs, had made repeated attempts to get a settlement of the accounts between STREVENS and Mrs. KELLY, which settlement the former always evaded. He explained that the will which had been altered by his advice, and by which the plaintiff had in some degree been injured, was altered for the general benefit of the family. He denied using the words which were imputed to him, but explained that, from the manner in which STREVENS came to him to announce the murder which had been committed, explaining that his aunt had been murdered by two men, he had said, with reference to that fact, 'Here comes the man who can tell how this was done.'

An extraordinary case of alleged perjury has been occupying the Court of Queen's Bench for several days. A Mr. EVANS has sued for a divorce against his wife on the ground of adultery, her criminality being sworn to by a great number of witnesses. The case is one of those in which the services of Inspector FIELD have been employed for the purpose of getting up the evidence. The alleged adulterer, a Mr. ROBINSON, swore in the Ecclesiastical Court that there was not a tittle of truth in the evidence given against the lady, and as this asseveration amounted to a charge of conspiracy against Mr. EVANS and his witnesses, the present proceedings have been taken, the issue of which is to prove extraordinary perjury on one side or the other. But the result has been unexpectedly deferred by the jury finding themselves unable to come to a decision upon the points submitted to them by Lord CAMPBELL. So there will be a new trial.

The soft heart, and not too hard head, of the Hon. MARY JONES, sister to the present Lord RANELAGH, have led her into such straits that nothing—she seems to have thought—but the Court of Exchequer could extricate her. Her story is very simple, the moral too obvious to need comment. She lived at 74, Ebury-street, Pimlico. At the same house, lived—a hero, a political martyr, an exile from the land of his birth. The dear romantic Duck styled himself the Count de WASZKOWSKI, son of the 'celebrated Prince WITTGENSTEIN.' He was alone in the world. He would aspire to the delight of making the acquaintance of the Hon. MARY JONES. He pressed the lady's maid to be the bearer first of bouquets, then of billets: the maid could not resist his prayers—the mistress returned his flowers, both figurative and real. But the son of the celebrated Prince WITTGENSTEIN persisted, until the lady was so provoked by his audacity that she determined to see him and tell him, once for all, to desist from his pursuit. That interview cost the Hon. MARY 100/- good money. He told her his sad, his interesting story; and she consented to become the bride of the son of the celebrated Prince before named—having heard that the expectations of the illustriously descended exile were about 40,000/- per annum, on the death of his great father. But

whatever his expectations, his 'remittances' were somehow a little irregular, and he blushingly confessed to his bride-elect that the loan of 100/- would really be of service—until the arrival of his 'remittances.' She handed him the paltry sum without an objection, and all went well, until the time was nearly arrived for the wedding to be celebrated. Then, she thought it time to talk of settlements. The Count repudiated the need for my such absurd conventional arrangements. But the Hon. MARY JONES was firm in her determination to have her property settled upon herself 'all regular.' This led to a sharp discussion—to the breaking off of the wedding—and, ultimately, to an action for the recovery of the 100/. lent. The Count's defence was worthy of his cause. He put in as a set-off a long bill for expenses incurred in preparation for the expected marriage—one of the items was for the wedding-cake! He admitted that he had received money from many ladies; in one case he was engaged to be married to a lady, and her family gave him 300/- to give up her letters 'and go.' And, as a wind-up, he said that, 'when he had done with one lady he took up with another.' A sentiment which the jury honoured by giving a verdict against him for the full sum claimed—which, in the uncertainty of his 'remittances,' he may find some difficulty in paying. Perhaps he may yet induce the Hon. MARY JONES to remit it.

OUR CHRISTMAS HOMILY.

Our readers will receive this week's paper during their Christmas holidays. It will find them surrounded by children and friends. They will have digested the religious truths of the season—a few words on its political aspects may not be unacceptable.

'Peace on earth, good-will towards men,' has no narrow and restricted signification. Peace, not to our own country alone, but to the whole world. Good-will, not to our own sect and party only, but to all mankind. Sympathy, not merely for the suffering and ignorant among our fellow-countrymen, but for all who, through oppression spiritual or political, are deprived of that blessed gift of liberty which we so highly prize for ourselves that we would see it extended to all. The politician's good-will includes all classes from the Queen to the beggar. He exults when rulers are efficient; he rejoices in any plan that would convert the reprobate into a productive citizen. His sympathies are with the artisan, for he has learned to appreciate the dignity of labour. He would lend a helping hand to those who in mid-winter are innocent sufferers through the reckless cupidity of gamblers. He limits not his beneficence to the plum-pudding and pint of porter provided for paupers and paraded in the public papers; he would rather cultivate in the working population that spirit of independence which enables them to bear and to suffer manfully the large burden of evils to which they are liable. If he gives money he does it with delicacy and consideration, not as conferring a gift, but as lending a hand to a brother; if he gives counsel, it is not as a teacher but as a friend, who in his turn would be glad to be advised. He gives his assistance less to societies with their secretaries and other salary-bearing consumers of alms than to families whom he knows personally, to hospitals which do an untold amount of good at the least possible cost, and to schools which minister to the starving mind and cure the festering sores of ignorance. His sympathies are now especially drawn towards his noble fellow-countrymen and country-women in India, whose sufferings have touched his heart, whose heroic achievements have won his deepest admiration; he mourns with those who have lost their dearest in the deadly strife. Nay, more, while he execrates the base and cowardly monsters who have committed crimes unspeakable, he prays that something may be effected even in his day towards emancipating the hundreds of millions of our Asiatic fellow-subjects from the mental and spiritual bondage that makes them the vilest of slaves.

As a landlord, he regards his tenants as something more than mere channels of income; he loves to see his labourers well lodged, and their children warmly clad and decently educated.

But Christmas finds many with little or nothing to give to others—their table spare—their fuel scarce. Even to them it is not denied to have noble aspirations after good, and warm sympathies for the suffering and oppressed throughout the world—to them it is not denied to do good by

words of kindness and friendliness, by examples of self-denial and willing service. All honour and all good wishes to rich and poor who are fighting daily against narrow-mindedness and self-love; to all who long and labour for the improvement, physical, moral, political, and spiritual, of the whole race and family of man!

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

LUCKNOW is relieved. So we are informed by the telegrams which were published in London on Wednesday evening. The same announcement has been made before, and has proved to be fallacious; but this time it seems as if the great object of Outram and Havelock had really been effectually accomplished. A series of severe struggles terminated on the 19th of November by the capture of the principal strongholds of the rebels. Sir Colin Campbell had reached Lucknow on the 2nd, and joined the force at Alumbagh on the 11th. On the 13th, as it would appear (for there is here a confusion in the dates), active operations were commenced, and for the next six days there was a most severe and bloody struggle with the enemy, ending, as we have said, in the Sepoys being driven from all their positions of strength. According to one account, our loss consisted of only five officers killed and thirty-one wounded; but nothing is said of the privates. On the 20th, the sick and wounded, the women and the children, were sent back under an escort to Cawnpore. The army under the Commander-in-Chief now amounts, according to one account, to 12,000 men; according to another, to 22,000—a force which is considered amply sufficient to reduce Oude to entire subjection, though this will probably occupy them some months.

"The Malwa force, under Brigadier Steuart," say despatch from Alexandria to the Foreign Office, "has relieved Nusseerabad, dispersed the Mehidpore and Mundesore rebels, and is now clearing Malwa of the insurgents. The flying columns under Brigadier Showers, Colonel Cotton, and Colonel Tiddal, are scouring Rohilkund, complete success attending their operations everywhere. Large masses of European troops are reaching India weekly, and we are relieved from all alarm for our garrisons and outposts, lately in such imminent peril. The Governor-General and the Government of Madras and Bombay are at the seats of Government."

Further details have been received from the Bombay Government, under date December 4th. We here read:—

"Lucknow was taken on 17th of November. Sir Colin Campbell reached Alumbagh on the 12th of November, and began fighting the next day. On the 13th, two guns were taken from the rebels, and the fort of Jellabab was destroyed. On the 15th, after two hours' hard fighting, Sir Colin Campbell occupied Delkhoshah and Martiniers. Five hours afterwards, the enemy made a desperate attempt to recover these positions, but were beaten back with heavy loss. Sir Colin Campbell crossed the canal on the 16th, and after an obstinate struggle took Scunder Bagh. A heavy artillery fire was opened on the Samund, and kept up for three hours, at the end of which the place was carried. Early on the 17th, a communication was opened with the barracks. A long cannonade was commenced, and the place was carried by assault at three P.M. The troops pushed on, and occupied the Motte Mathal before dark. Sir James Outram and Sir Henry Havelock then met Sir Colin Campbell."

The Commander-in-Chief, it appears, was slightly wounded during these engagements, but not in such a way as would interfere with his performance of his duty.

The same despatch contains the subjoined items of news from other parts of India:—

"CAWPORE."

"The Gwalior rebels advanced to within fifteen miles of Cawnpore, but have again retired to Calpes. General Windham is stated to have marched to attack them."

"DELHI."

"Twenty-four inferior members of the royal family were executed by sentence of a military commission on the 20th of November. Zookeen Abdoolah, an influential rebel chief, was executed on the next day. The force under Colonel Gerard proceeded to intercept the Jodhpore Legion, which, with many other rebels, had appeared in Shikawattie. The force met the enemy, on the 25th of November, near Narrool, and defeated them with great slaughter, and the loss of all their guns. Our loss was fifteen killed and forty-five wounded; but Colonel Gerard was among the killed."

"AGRA."

"The detachments under Colonel Riddell and Major Old are employed in clearing the Ullgor (Alighur?) districts. Major Old, on the 19th of November, fell in with and dispersed a body of Rohilkund rebels. All is quiet in the Punjab; the Gogaria rising has been entirely put down."

"NEEMUCH, &c."

"Neemuch has been besieged by the Mundesore insurgents for nearly a fortnight. On November 21st, an attempt was made to take the fort by escalade, but the enemy were repulsed with great loss, and the siege was raised on the 22nd.

"The Mhow column, under Brigadier Steuart, was attacked near Mundesore by the insurgents on the 21st of November. The insurgents were repulsed.

"On the 23rd, the column advanced to the north of Mundesore, on the Neemuch road, and found the rebels in a strong position, with five guns. The position was immediately attacked, and the rebels defeated, with the loss of all their guns. While this battle was in progress, the Mundesore garrison came out and attacked our rear; but they got well beaten also. The rebels, in the fights of the 21st and 23rd, lost fifteen hundred men, while our loss was inconsiderable. Lieutenant Gedimayne, of her Majesty's 24th, was killed, and Major Robinson, 24th Native Infantry, wounded. The column afterwards entered Mundesore on the 25th, the rebels having evacuated it on the night of the 24th.

"The fort and town of Saugor remain untouched, but large parties of rebels are in the surrounding districts. A part of the Madras column defeated a body of the insurgents near Seomah, on the Jubulpore—, on the 10th of November and took two guns. Captain Fowerham (Tottenham?) of the 4th Madras Cavalry, was killed, and Lieutenant Clarke, the Deputy Commissioner of Jubulpore, severely wounded.

"The Bheel disturbances in Khandeish continue, but the Bhools are confined to the hills, and will be attacked in their strongholds when the jungle is cleared. The Minister of the Kolapole State was stabbed in his office on the 23rd of November by an Arab soldier. The wounds are slight, and the Arab was actuated by private motives only.

"SOUTHERN MAHARATTA COUNTRY."

"Intelligence has just been received of a rising of some Beruds near Moodhole. A force was advanced from Belgaum to restore order. The state of things in that part of the country is not satisfactory."

"The remaining part of the Bombay Presidency is quiet. Reinforcements have arrived in the Warrior Queen and the Italian, but more are urgently required. All is quiet in Madras and the Nizam's country."

The Abeona, with the 94th Regiment, arrived at Malta from Plymouth on the 20th inst., and left for Alexandria on the same day.

OPINIONS ON THE MUTINY.

(Extract from a Private Letter.)

"We must crush the high castes of India, if ever we hope to do any real good to the country. The thing is easy enough, for the low castes are ten to one the majority and they are all on our side. The low castes also are progressive, we can Europeanize them, the high castes never. Caste leaves the Hindoo no individuality. If caste bids him murder, murder he must, though he be the gentlest of human beings. If caste bids him rebel, rebel he must, though personal interest, personal attachment, and personal fear, all unite to persuade him to the contrary. We have been very near losing India by dealing with the Hindoo too well, by treating them as though they were rational, nay, civilized beings, neither of which they are. A Hindoo can reason, and very acutely, but he is not a rational being. A rational being is one who is guided by reason, a Hindoo is not, he is guided by caste. A civilized being is a man who calculates, who looks back for examples, and forward to results; the Hindoo does not calculate, he forgets his experiences, he never cares for records of the past, there never was such a thing as Hindoo history; he can never look forward; possible results a year hence never enter into his calculations at all; he is not a civilized man, he is the slave of caste. What caste is to the Hindoo, fate is to the Mahomedan; fate, which is practically another word for impulse. A man does what his passions prompt him and sets it down to fate. Moreover, the Mahomedans in India have well nigh adopted the caste theory in the same manner as the Hindoos themselves, especially the lower orders. Now these are the people whom we have been treating as rational beings, coaxing, arguing, persuading, instead of commanding to do what was right; and this rebellion is the natural result. I do not look upon it so much in the light of a crime on the part of the rebels, as a necessary consequence of their system and our truckling to it. We must inflict tremendous vengeance to re-establish our moral influence, to show that our former forbearance was not from weakness as they imagined, and having done so, we should at once and for ever ignore caste as respecting all public duties. Caste must never again be allowed to excuse a man going on board ship, working in the trenches, or any necessary duty whatever. This should be proclaimed before the new Bengal army is raised, and then let such as dislike the conditions keep out of the service. The populations of all towns should be disarmed, they have no need of weapons. The country people, who are exposed to wild beasts, &c., should be allowed to have a few under registry of the magistrate. Civilians and others should be forced to employ men of all castes in their offices, instead of allowing the Brahmins to monopolize everything. The competitive examination must be done away with, or the Brahmins

will for many years to come beat everybody else. We do not want the cleverest natives in office, but the most honest, the most faithful. A plain, practical Sodha, just sufficiently qualified to carry on his work and do as he was bid, would be a far more useful public servant than a scheming Brahmin. We desire a much more refined vengeance than mere hanging and shooting; we want revenge upon caste; as such, we want to see caste rendered an exclusion from all public employ, that is, that no man who will not abandon his caste prejudices in every case where they come in collision with any possible public duty, should be incompetent to hold any public situation at all. Let such be the avowed condition of all service, we shall get plenty of men ready enough to agree. The principle has already been acted upon (virtually) in the Madras army, and certainly the result is very encouraging."

SPECIAL LETTERS FROM INDIA.

(From a Military Correspondent.)

Nagpore, November, 1857.

THE truth is that the whole establishment of our Indian army must be remodelled, and, in my opinion, much reduced. It has far outgrown the requirements and the financial endurance of the Indian empire. Our sole strength and really reliable reserve lie in the European troops, yet we have kept up an enormous regular army, with its costly machinery of staff and commissariat and European officers, whose pay (mark this) amounts to nearly half of the entire military expenditure of the empire, and employ that army in duties of domestic security and police, mounting guard over treasuries, escorting treasure, guarding gaols, escorting convicts, and the like, which could be equally well done by armed police at one quarter of the expense. At the same time, while this pampered and pipe-clayed infantry was augmented beyond all necessity, except that of patronage, the peculiar martial growth of the country, if I may call them so, the natural, indigenous, ready-made warriors of India, who will spring forward in any numbers at the word of command, mounted and armed, and who will do tolerably good service without any drill or regimental system whatever, who ask for no pensions, or tents, or commissariat, or dry-nursing whatever, these invaluable troops, the Irregular Cavalry of India, have been neglected and starved—their pay cut down to starvation point, and their old customs and privileges so destroyed or modified as to discourage as much as possible any native of the rank of nobleman or gentleman from serving in the Irregular Cavalry as an officer. Notwithstanding all these discouragements many native gentlemen do serve in this branch of the service; and the men of the Irregular Cavalry Corps have always been remarkable as the most willing and contented, and without having the servile manners of the Hindoo, the most respectful native soldiers in the army. Five hundred men of this sort in a district would be far more useful to the civil power in the case of petty local disturbances than two battalions of the line, far more useful for escort purposes, and requiring but a small share of the expensive machinery of staff, commissariat, and inspecting and supervising authorities, which swells the bulk of the military budget.

I have said that these irregular troopers will do tolerably good service without any drill or regimental system whatever,—so they will, but it is not of course intended to advocate the Pindarree or Mahratta style of warfare. It is merely mentioned to show the facility of recruiting; but it is absolutely to be remembered that no riding-school is required or would be advisable in training the irregular troopers. They ride best in their own way. But with good arms and careful attention to their drill and discipline, they would form the very class of soldiers in which the British army, and every European army except the Russian, has always been deficient—good light cavalry, really light horsemen. They are all, or with very few exceptions, Musulmans, and have no objection to foreign service of any description. Why did we not employ a few thousands of these men in the late war with Russia? I verily believe because, from the wretched rate at which most of the regiments are paid, we only had six or seven corps sufficiently well mounted, clothed and armed to be of any service. The two regiments of Seinde horse and the four regiments of the Hyderabad contingent, are paid fairly, not handsomely—thirty rupees a month—and can afford to keep good serviceable horses, but the ordinary pay of the irregular trooper is only twenty rupees a month, which is barely sufficient to keep him and his horse alive.

These troops ought to be augmented, better paid, and measures taken to induce the gentlemen and nobles of the country to enter the service as officers; and they would then be by far the most useful for ordinary duties in time of peace, and by far the most useful auxiliaries to a British army in time of war. They will be found brave and dashing light cavalry; and after all light cavalry are not expected to be death-and-glory heroes, to perform Balaklava charges, or demolish Russian squares.

The natives of India are brave, and when properly handled and treated are capable of a fine military spirit, but they never will be found equal in energy and stern determination to European soldiers. Infantry

sepoy never were and never will be fit to cope with European bayonets, or to face for hours a destructive fire of artillery without wavering. In a foreign war, even say in Persia or in Egypt, we must always rely for the masses of our army on the British race. But for light cavalry I know not where we are to look except to India, and I believe that the Indian Irregular Cavalry, if properly paid and organized, would be found far superior in both men and horses—the men superior in daring and dexterity, the horses in weight, swiftness, and endurance—to the Cossacks of the Czar. Foster the Irregular Cavalry, cut down the Regular Infantry sepoy to a minimum, and above all never allow any European officer to have a command or to have the least official intercourse with sepoy who is not well qualified, by a knowledge of their language and experience of their customs, to exercise supreme and summary authority; and let us have no more cadetships. Damp up the stream of patronage, and let us select from the vast superfluity of very raw material we have in the country already.

We have many more English officers both civil and military in the country than we ought to have. But both this and the subject of the more extensive employment of natives in the higher grades of the public service are topics of such weighty importance in all their bearings, that I must keep them to form the theme of a future letter.

E. B.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

An express train from Euston-square broke down on Friday week about five miles from Handborough. The guard immediately returned along the line (which is there single) to stop the next train—an ordinary one. He carried his lamp, but the night was foggy, and the expected train passed him without seeing the signal to stop. The consequence was that it ran into the broken-down express, and a good many persons were injured.

Two trains have met on the South Staffordshire and Stour Valley Junction line. A passenger train, when about a hundred yards from the Dudley Port station, came into collision with a coal train which was about to be shunted. The driver of the latter was half-an-hour before his time; and the result of his culpable neglect of orders was that the engine and tender of his train were thrown off the line, and that about twenty persons in the passenger train were a good deal hurt. There was no fatal case. The drivers of the two trains saved themselves by jumping off.

A child has been killed at the Bankside saw mills, by the fall of a high stack of timber.

A man, his wife, and child have been burnt to death at a house in Anchor-street, Shoreditch, which was consumed by fire last Saturday morning. On the night of the same day, two children perished in a fire which broke out in Upper Byranstone-street, Edgware-road. A woman also has been burnt to death at a fire which broke out on Monday in Bermondsey.—The inquest on the bodies in the first of these cases has led to the apprehension of Mr. Harman, the tenant of the house, on a charge of arson. The house and property were insured for £800. An adjournment of the inquest has been agreed on. Harman has been brought before the Worship-street magistrate and remanded.

Three men were a few days ago excavating some earth between Bromley and Beckenham, when it suddenly gave way, burying them beneath. They were extricated as soon as possible; but it is doubtful whether they can live.

A large mass of rock fell like an avalanche on Monday week on some men who were working a fresh opening in the Dorothea Slatesworks, North Wales. It was a task of great labour, in which blasting was frequently resorted to, to remove the fragments so as to get at the dead bodies, which were not reached till between four and five days after the catastrophe. Five men were killed; and all, with the exception of one, leave children. The entire fall is estimated at several thousand tons.

A portable steam thrashing machine, carried about the country near Thorne, Yorkshire, by a man named Johnson, has burst while at work on a farm. Johnson himself was killed on the spot, and so was the son of the farmer on whose premises the machine was being worked. The two sons of a neighbouring farmer were seriously injured, and a haystack was completely blown over. Johnson appears to have ignorantly screwed down the safety valve, and to have increased the fire, when the steam was very strong.

Two boys were playing last Saturday near a lime kiln at Broughton Low Houses, in the neighbourhood of Cockermouth. One of them stepped on the top, and instantly sank into the burning mass. A large body of flame burst forth, preventing any one going to the poor child's assistance; and so he perished, absolutely before the eyes of the workmen. Nothing but his bones was recovered. When his mother was told of the accident, she rushed to the kiln, and would have thrown herself in had she not been restrained.

STATE OF TRADE.

BUSINESS continued as stagnant as ever during the week ending last Saturday. Fresh failures occurred; manufacturers held back; orders were almost entirely suspended; large numbers of working men remained unemployed in the great centres of industry; and in the iron

districts of South Staffordshire forty-seven furnaces, which had been blown out at the commencement of the panic, continued idle. Unfortunately, there is no immediate prospect of a brighter state of things.

The colliers of South Staffordshire are at issue with their employers with respect to a reduction of wages. The disputants have had an interview; and there seems to be some prospect of an amicable settlement.—A strike has taken place at Middlesborough, and the men have been rather riotous; but the arrival of a detachment of the 4th Dragoons from York put a stop to the disturbances.

The failures this week are—Messrs. Charles Nicholson and Co., warehousemen; Messrs. Lloyd Brothers, picture dealers and exporters to the United States; Mr. William Reid, of Edinburgh, wholesale grocer, with liabilities to the amount of 20,000/- or 30,000/-; Messrs. Pinkerton and Thompson, merchants, of Dublin; Mr. W. C. Haigh, of Bradford, largely engaged in the woollen trade; Messrs. Hands, Marcher, and Co., Dutch merchants at Hull; and Mears, Stevenson, Vermehren, and Scott, merchants at Newcastle.

The Trade and Navigation Returns for the month ending the 30th of November, and for the eleven months terminating on the same day, were published on Thursday. The declared value of articles of British produce exported last month was £825,000/- as compared with £10,272,000/- in the corresponding month of last year, and with £8,759,000/- in 1855. On the eleven months there is no falling off. The exports for the last eleven months amounted to £11,500,7000/-, compared with £105,845,000/- in 1855, and £6,847,000/- in 1855. In imports, the principal articles for home consumption decreased during the last month. The Navigation returns exhibit a steady increase in the total number and tonnage of vessels entering and clearing.

IRELAND.

MR. JUSTICE JACKSON died on Sunday, leaving a vacant seat in the Dublin Court of Common Pleas.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN has delivered a lecture on Self-reliance before the Limerick Mechanics' Institute. He spoke very sensibly of the necessity for Irishmen looking to their own efforts, and not to extraneous help, for raising their country out of a state of mere provincialism; and he exhorted his auditors not to give way to the tendency, now too common, of seeking situations under Government.

THE BANK OF IRELAND.—The directors have just declared a dividend to be made to the proprietors of bank stock of six per cent., free of income-tax, for the half-year ending the 25th inst., and which is to be payable on and after the 1st of January, 1858. The last price of this stock was 235. From a statement made by the Governor it appeared that after payment of this dividend there would remain a sum of about £23,000/- according to the estimate of profits for the half-year, which balance the directors recommended should be added to the rest or reserve fund, it being prudent, in their opinion, in times like the present, to strengthen this reserve.—*Times.*

THE GREAT SLANDER TRIAL.—The case of Stevens v. Campion has continued through the greater part of the present week to occupy the attention of Judge, jury, and lawyers, in the Dublin Court of Exchequer. The whole story of the murder has thus been again unfolded; and one day Mr. Campion was so overcome by his feelings in relating some particulars of the deed, that he was removed for a time into a private room. According to the latest news from Dublin, the trial has not yet been brought to a conclusion.

AMERICA.

THE chief news from the United States this week is the Presidential message which was delivered to Congress on the 8th inst., the day the vessel sailed which brought it to England. The vessel arrived at Liverpool on Sunday, and the whole of the message appeared in the *Daily News* of the following morning, having been transmitted by telegraph—the longest "message" ever sent along the wires in England. The other papers of that day only presented a summary.

The President commences by referring to the financial crisis. The principal cause of this is said to be the over-issue of paper money and the existence of Bank credits without a metallic basis, causing excessive stock gambling and over-speculation. Mr. Buchanan suggests that the issue of bills of less denomination than twenty or fifty dollars ought to be prohibited, and that Congress should pass a bankruptcy law to close any bank which should suspend specie payments. Government will alleviate the sufferings caused by the crisis by suspending all public works not at present commenced; and the President hopes to find no difficulty in contracting a small loan. Foreign relations are described as being on the whole in a satisfactory condition; but Mr. Buchanan regrets that so much time was lost in discussing the clauses of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. The Central American negotiations with this country, however, are said to be progressing satisfactorily. The point at issue has reference to the Bay Islands off the coast of Honduras, to which England has sought to give a semi-independence, while the United States desire to secure the entire sovereignty of the Republic of Honduras. Mr.

Buchanan proposes that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty shall be abolished on account of the diverse interpretations put upon it by his own country and England. [America, it will be remembered, conceives that the renunciation by the contracting parties of all domination in Central America is retrospective as well as prospective: our Government thinks we are entitled to retain what we already possess.] The relations of the Republic with Spain are unsatisfactory: the causes of complaint against that country remain in force, and the Spanish Government has not exhibited a friendly bearing; but the new Minister about to depart for Madrid is instructed to arrange affairs in an amicable manner. Authority is asked from Congress to permit the employment of a naval and military force to maintain the guarantee of neutrality and protection; and measures are requested to stop filibustering outrages, which are strongly denounced. Satisfaction will be demanded from Paraguay for certain insults. American Ministers in China have been instructed to occupy a neutral position with respect to existing hostilities between England and the Celestial Empire; but will cordially co-operate with the English and French Ministers in all peaceful attempts to secure by treaty those concessions to commerce which the nations of the world have a right to expect. A treaty of friendship and commerce has been concluded at Constantinople between the United States and Persia; and an appropriation is asked from Congress to cover the expense of sending a representative to Teheran. Of the tariff the President says—"It has been in operation for so short a period of time, and under circumstances so unfavourable to a just development of its results as a revenue measure, that I should regard it as inexpedient, at least for the present, to undertake its revision." The Mormons are thus referred to:—"No wise Government will lightly estimate the efforts which may be inspired by such frenzied fanaticism as exists among the Mormons in Utah. This is the first rebellion which has existed in our territories, and humanity itself requires that we should put it down in such a measure that it shall be the last. To trifle with it would be to encourage it, and so render it formidable. We ought to go there with such an imposing force as to convince these deluded people that resistance would be in vain, and thus spare the effusion of blood. We can in this manner best convince them that we are their friends, and not their enemies. In order to accomplish this object it will be necessary, according to the estimates of the War Department, to raise four additional regiments, and this I earnestly recommend to Congress." In referring to the affairs of Kansas, the President asserts the legality of the Lecompton convention, and contends that, though the instructions to Governor Walker were to submit the whole constitution to the people, the Lecompton programme will be sufficient, as slavery, the only matter in dispute, is there offered to the popular vote. A territorial government for Arizona, and the construction of a railroad to the Pacific, are recommended.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury recommends that authority be given to the Treasury Department to issue Treasury notes for an amount not exceeding twenty millions, payable within a limited time, at a specified rate of interest; this authority to be exercised only in case of need. He argues against a high protective tariff; is in favour of freer commercial intercourse with foreign nations, and of a compulsory bankrupt law; and recommends a totally different act from either of those which have hitherto existed. "It should be," he says, "for the protection of creditors, not the relief of debtors; to prevent improper credit, not to pay improvident debts; compulsory, not voluntary; and to include corporations and companies."

In the Senate, Mr. Douglass has expressed his dissent from the President's views relative to Kansas; and other Democrats have sided with him.

The President has peremptorily dismissed Robert J. Walker and Frederick P. Stanton from the Governorship and Secretarship of Kansas. The cause of the dismissal of Mr. Stanton was the fact of his having issued a proclamation calling a special session of the Lecompton Legislature to meet on the 7th inst. The anti-slavery party are taking all possible steps to uphold their opinions.

The Mormons are giving more trouble to the Federal troops. Some of the former have been taken prisoners in a skirmish; but they have succeeded in capturing six hundred cattle.

The Indianapolis fugitive slave case has been decided by the Judge returning the slave to his master, amidst great excitement.

The riot on the Erie railroad has been suppressed.

Mr. James M. Crane, of California, has been sent to Washington as the representative of the people of the Great Basin, or Carson Valley, who are desirous of having that portion of Utah lying near California erected into a new territory separate from the Mormon dominion.

The Treasury Department at Washington, according to the correspondent of the *New York Herald*, has suspended payment. Requisitions to the amount of nearly half a million of dollars were held in the department. The same correspondent states that the Government has received accounts of the capture of a slaver by one of her Majesty's ships. Out of six hundred slaves, two hundred were drowned.

It is stated that various Indian tribes have offered their services to the Federal Government in the suppression of the Mormon rebellion.

The banks in the city of New York have resumed specie payments, and others have followed their example.

The troops despatched to Utah are to winter at Henry's Fork, or Green River, until spring, when operations will be resumed. Reinforcements appear to be greatly needed.

The Mexican Government troops had defeated the revolutionists at Puebla and other points, and affairs generally have assumed a more encouraging aspect. The position of the hostile factions in Yucatan exhibits no change.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The Government seems determined to push its despotic interference with the press to the utmost extreme. The *Union*, the *Univers*, and the *Siecle* have been carrying on a discussion of considerable length on the subjects of 'democracy' and 'revolution.' They designed to go yet further into the questions; but the Government has interposed. Any continuation of the discussion is absolutely prohibited. With respect to the temporarily extinguished *Presse*, the *Times* Paris correspondent remarks:—"The managers had nearly resolved to request permission to resume the publication of that journal, but only on literary subjects, with a view to save the hundreds of persons employed by it from starving. They have, I am told, been obliged to abandon the idea." Madame George Sand has written a letter to the Empress, pointing in affecting terms the distress caused to the families of the workmen on the extinguished paper by the suspension of its publication, and begging her to intercede for them. It does not appear that any good has resulted from this generous attempt.

The *Courrier de Paris*, which recently undertook to show that the Empire and Liberty are perfectly consistent, has received an intimation that its opinions are not acceptable at head-quarters; and it has therefore relapsed into silence.

An Artillery College is to be established at Grenoble. Louis Napoleon is skilled in the science of artillery, and has increased the number of these schools.

The manufacturer of the 20,000 rifles ordered by the English Government in 1855 has just completed his task, which he announces with much pride and satisfaction. He has had an audience of the Emperor, and presented him with a model of the arms and a medal he has had struck on the occasion.

"The only topic which occupies conversation now," says the *Daily Telegraph* Paris correspondent, "is the seizure of a book entitled, 'The True and the False Catholics,' which is likely to give rise to a very scandalous trial. The work, published anonymously, is by a writer who pretends to be a sincere Catholic, and in that character pushes the doctrines of the Church to their extreme consequences, so as to make them ridiculous. Many innocent persons were at first deceived, and thought they had got possession of a work of piety. The animus of the work was at last discovered by the police, who have not, however, been equally successful in finding out the author." The same writer adds:—"There is now forming in Belgium, Piedmont, and other countries of Europe, where something like liberty exists, a society for the defence of religious liberty. One of the objects it proposes is, to collect money for the defence of all persons prosecuted for offences against Catholicism. Each member is to contribute a day's gains. The 'statutes' of the society are circulating in Paris, and adhesions are coming in; but of course nothing public can be done at present."

The roads in the country have been much infested with robbers of late, and the police appear to be very inefficient.

The Emperor and Empress went on Friday week to Neuilly to witness some experiments, conducted by M. Carteron, the inventor of process for rendering wood tissues of all sorts, theatrical decorations, &c., incombustible. The experiments are reported to have been entirely successful.

A very dense ground fog set in last Saturday evening, in certain parts of Paris. The obscurity was so complete that vehicles and even foot passengers were obliged to come to a dead halt, until the authorities sent out policemen with lighted torches. The fog was only local, and did not rise far above the ground, the stars all the while being plainly visible.

"The *Mémorial de Lille*," says the *Daily News* Paris correspondent, "a Bonapartist journal, which was lately suppressed in the ordinary course of Imperial law (on a second conviction [in a Court of Justice] for a libel upon M. Brême, the successful opposition candidate for Lille), has been relieved from its sentence by a special exercise of the Emperor's prerogative."

SPAIN.

A great many long documents relating to the contemplated duel between Señor Guell y Rente and General Narvaez have been published in the London papers. The result of the negotiations is, that the duel will not take place, because the principals cannot agree about the weapon. Guell y Rente is for the short sword, Narvaez

for pistols; and so their martial ardour seems destined to be balked.

According to the *Alasbra*, a Granada journal, some of the Moorish chiefs at Melilla have entered into friendly relations with the Spaniards, and have even expressed a wish to pass under their rule.

GERMANY.

"On Thursday, the 10th inst.," says the *Times* Vienna correspondent, "the representative of the Grand Duchy of Hesse at the Bund laid before that body the representation of the municipality of Mayence. It is to the effect that the inhabitants of the city claim indemnification for the damage done by the explosion on the 18th of November, and desire that all large quantities of powder may immediately be removed to the outer works of the fortress. The representation was, as a matter of course, handed over to the military committee of the Diet. The commission which had to examine into the cause of the explosion has at last come to the conclusion that the Austrian non-commissioned officer Wiener did, on the 18th of November, feloniously set fire to the powder magazine. A few days since, eight hundred cwt. of powder were removed from the magazine in the Boniface Bastion, and now the powder magazine in the citadel is being emptied."

Baron von Reden, one of the most famous of German statuaries, has died at Vienna of inflammation of the lungs following a cold caught at the opening of a new railroad.

ITALY.

A terrific earthquake devastated the districts of Salerno, Potenza, Nola, and other places near Naples, on the 17th inst. Entire villages have been destroyed, and the victims are several thousands in number. In the city of Naples, there were several violent shocks, and the entire population was encamped outside the walls during the whole day; but no fatal accident occurred in the town.

During some excavations lately made at a place called the Arco Traversino, about two miles from Rome, the villa of Quintus Servilius Silanus, who was consul in 189, was discovered, and close by were found, at the same time, the remains of a Christian church, with an entrance into the catacombs.

Prince Lucien Bonaparte, son of the Prince of Canino, to be received at Rome into holy orders.

Ancona is in a very disturbed state. Several assassinations and other acts of violence have been committed, and nineteen persons have been arrested on suspicion.

The Neapolitan Government has declared the Cagliari a regular capture, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs has published a justification of this decision. The indictment against the prisoners taken with the Cagliari includes the English engineers, so that they will be tried under the same circumstances as their fellow captives.

RUSSIA.

"It appears certain," says a St. Petersburg letter in the *Breslaw Gazette*, "that the Russian Government has fixed the mode in which the emancipation of the peasants is to be effected. It will take place, not all at once, but successively, at three periods. In the first, the relations between the peasants connected with the soil (*globe adscripti*) and the State will be fixed, that is to say, they will be admitted to possess a political existence, and their obligations to their lords will be rigorously traced out. In the second period, serfdom will be suppressed; and in the third, the payments in kind will be converted into a fixed rent, and the mode of redeeming such rent and the acquisition of free property of the peasants will be regulated."

Very confused accounts are given of the mission of Admiral Putiatin to China. It would appear, however, that the Chinese Government has refused to receive any foreign mission in Pekin. There is a report that the Russian Admiral brought a letter from the Emperor offering to put down the insurrection on condition of receiving a portion of the Manchurian territory, and that the Celestial monarch refused to accede; but this has been said several times before, and is therefore doubtful. Another questionable assertion has been made—that the Chinese Government has peremptorily required Russia to evacuate the territory which she has occupied at the mouth of the Amoor. The *Northern Bee* has been loudly denouncing the Chinese jealousy of foreigners, and hinting that, if the Pekin Government will not grant commercial intercourse with other nations, "it will be no matter of surprise if China should shortly become the theatre of remarkable events of the highest interest to Europe."

A terrible instance of official oppression at Warsaw is thus narrated by the *Times* Vienna correspondent:—"About twelve years ago, M. Rosengold, a Jewish tradesman, made known to the higher authorities that the State was systematically robbed by certain *employés*. In order that the matter might not become public, Rosengold was seized and thrown into prison, where he remained until the amnesty was granted at the coronation of the present Emperor. On his liberation, the unfortunate man lost no time in laying his case before the new authorities, and they soon satisfied themselves that he had been infamously treated. By a special ukase, the Emperor Alexander has made public the man's innocence, and given orders that certain civic distinctions shall be conferred on him."

An Imperial rescript, dated from Tzarskoe Selo, November 20th (old style), or December 2nd of our calendar, has just been addressed by Alexander II. to the Military Governor of Vilno and the Governor-General of Grodno and Kovno, instituting changes in the relations between the peasantry and landed proprietors of the country, with a view to the partial enfranchisement of the serfs.

The Russians, on the 18th of November, completely defeated a body of 3000 Tscherkesses. The Sealatavia is said to have been completely evacuated and all the villages burnt.

AUSTRIA.

"Two newly-appointed professors belonging to the clergy," says a German paper, "had lately to take the usual oath before the Governor of Vienna. They listened, without raising any objection, to the ordinary formula, 'to observe fidelity and obedience to the Emperor,' &c., but, when they had to confirm the oath by raising their hands, they declared that they could do so except on condition that there should be inserted in the oath the words, 'without prejudice to the rights of our ecclesiastical superior.' The ceremony was suspended, and the question submitted to the Minister of the Interior, who has decided that the clause shall be inserted."

The reduction of the Austrian army commenced on the 1st inst.

TURKEY.

The Prince of Souvenetti, who murdered Prince Garavine, was shot at Koutais on the 17th ult., in pursuance of the sentence of the court-martial.

A third circular note has been addressed by the Porte to its agents abroad with reference to the sittings of the Divans in connexion with the Danubian Principalities. It is here stated that those assemblies have only hitherto occupied themselves with political matters, and that they desire to meet again after the conferences at Paris have decided on the question of the union, at which subsequent sittings they will consider the administrative reforms necessitated by the new regime. The Porte prohibits this proposed course, and says that the Paris Congress ought to be furnished with complete data for deciding on the future of the Principalities. It expresses its satisfaction that the various Governments agree on the necessity of dissolving the Divans as soon as the European commission shall have sent in its final report. As the Divans have positively refused to proceed to the examination of any internal matters until their political organization has been settled, they may be considered virtually at an end.

Two Christian Armenians have been raised to the dignity of Pacha. Their nomination has been received with great favour at Constantinople, as they have rendered service to Turkey.

M. de Lesseps has arrived at Constantinople from Trieste.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe left Constantinople on board the Austrian mail packet on the 12th instant. Mr. Alison, Secretary of Embassy, takes charge of English interests during his absence.

The Commissioners for the demarcation of the Asiatic frontier left Constantinople on the 9th instant, Colonel Simmonds and M. Pelissier having embarked on board the French mail packet for Marseilles, and General Tschirikoff, with his staff, on board the Odessa steamer.

Her Majesty's Ship Medina, Captain Spratt, has returned from the Danube, where it has been engaged in facilitating the work of the Commission for the navigation of that stream. Captain Spratt has drawn up a report on the delta of the Danube, and Lieutenant C. H. Wilkinson has made a minute survey of all the branches of the river. Some soundings have also been taken in the basin of the Mediterranean. Captain Spratt has communicated the result of his inquiries to the Commission at Galatz.

DENMARK.

The Danish Chambers closed on the 22nd. The Supreme Council of the monarchy is to meet on the 10th January. Several resignations have taken place. Many failures continue to occur in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

THE JEUFOSSE TRIAL.

The trial of the Jeufosse family for murder, at the Court of Assizes of the Eure, has revealed a remarkable story. The Jeufosse family are of noble lineage, and are the possessors of an ancient château standing in the midst of woods and a large extent of park-land, the whole being surrounded by a wall. Though thus living in aristocratical state, there appears to have been no superabundance of riches; and the two sons, Ernest and Albert, have resided principally in Paris for the sake of mixing in Bourse speculations. The father has been dead some years, and the mother, a lady nearly fifty years of age, has lived in retirement at the château with her daughter Blanche, who is not yet nineteen, and the governess, Mademoiselle Laurence Thouzey. One of the neighbours of this old patrician family was a gentleman named Emile Guillot, a person of some wealth, but of no pedigree, who became a constant visitor at the château,

paid attentions to Mademoiselle Laurence, made shooting parties with the young men, whenever they were at their mother's house (which was not often), and sometimes lent them money. Guillot appears to have been a very similar person to his equally ill-fated countryman, L'Angelier, the hero of the Glasgow poisoning case. Like him, he was excessively vain, of lax morality, and fond of boasting of his triumphs over the hearts of women, with whom he believed he was irresistible. He was a married man, but had been avowedly mixed up with many intrigues, which his wife seems to have tolerated out of an extreme affection for him. His flirtations with Mademoiselle Laurence soon became the talk of the neighbourhood; but Madame de Jeufosse refused to take any notice of the matter. In process of time, however, Guillot began to pay his attentions rather to Mademoiselle Blanche than to her governess; and it would seem that the former young lady did not emphatically discourage his advances. At any rate, Guillot, with infamous audacity, boasted everywhere that he had triumphed over the virtue of Mademoiselle Blanche. On hearing of this, Madame de Jeufosse determined to break off all connexion with the scoundrel. Madame Guillot thereupon called at the château, and, with much simplicity, told Madame de Jeufosse that she was sure there could be nothing wrong between her husband and Blanche, because Emile had himself informed her that his intrigue with Mademoiselle Laurence was still going on. Guillot, however, was forbidden the house, and he revenged himself in a very dastardly manner. Whenever the Jeufosse family left the château, he haunted them. Wherever they went he went. If they rode out in their carriage, he followed them in his; and even when they went to mass they were not secure from his intrusion. He violated the sanctity of his victim's dwelling; would scale the park walls at night, sound his horn in the woods, enter the château, disorder the sleeping rooms, upset the chairs, and turn the pictures with their fronts to the walls. He dropped about the park passionate love-letters to Blanche; boasted of midnight assignations with the young lady; took his disreputable hangers-on with him into the woods, and so contrived as to make them believe that, while they were watching, he was enjoying the company of his supposed mistress. There does not appear, however, to be the smallest amount of evidence to show that Mademoiselle de Jeufosse at all compromised herself with this vulgar braggart; but the assumption at the trial, on the part of the prosecution, was that Mademoiselle Blanche had fallen before the persevering attacks of Guillot, and that Madame de Jeufosse compassed the seducer's death out of revenge.

The mother, at any rate, seems to have determined on taking some steps to put a stop to the nuisance. The eldest son wrote a letter to Guillot, warning him that orders had been given to fire on him if he again intruded, and that a reward would be paid to any one who should succeed in hitting him. This letter was intercepted by Madame Guillot; but on the 17th of March the old friends of M. de Jeufosse met and expostulated with Guillot, who, while denying a good deal, said he would not offend again. He did do so, however, immediately. Madame de Jeufosse then asked a neighbouring magistrate if the law would justify her in shooting Guillot when forcing himself on her grounds at midnight. He replied that it would. She therefore directed Crepel, her gamekeeper, to fire on Guillot on the first opportunity; but she asserts that she merely designed slightly to wound and permanently to frighten him. Crepel watched for a long time without effect. At length his mistress watched with him, and for several nights she sat at an open window, while the gamekeeper stood on the lawn below, armed with his double-barrelled gun. On the night of the 12th of June, a rustling was heard in the shrubberies near the park wall, and footstep were detected retreating as Crepel advanced. The watcher made a brief exclamation of warning, fired, and Guillot fell with eight slugs in his body. The whole household was alarmed and roused by the report; but, on Guillot's servant hastening to the château to beg assistance, he was for some time disregarded. At length, a domestic followed him to the spot with a lantern, and found Guillot in the last agonies of death, and but just able to accuse Crepel of having fired the shot. The body was left where it lay, and was only removed next day by the magistrates who came to make investigation.

The defence at the trial was that Madame de Jeufosse was justified in shooting a midnight intruder on her grounds, who came there avowedly to ruin her daughter's virtue. She was 'besieged in her own house,' observed M. Berryer, the advocate for the defence. The jury took this view, and acquitted the prisoners (who consisted of Madame de Jeufosse, her two sons, and Crepel); but some disapprobation has been expressed at the hardness of heart which could leave Guillot without assistance after he was shot. Madame de Jeufosse will have to pay the costs of the trial. On hearing the verdict of the jury, her firmness was for the first time overcome, and she burst into tears. Her two sons smiled at their friends in court.

Madame de Jeufosse will sell the château, and go to Italy; and her daughter has already retired into a convent.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

THE ASSIZES.

The Judge and jury at the Durham Assizes yesterday week were occupied nearly the whole of the day in trying a case of criminal assault on a woman. Two men were accused—Thomas Osborn, a bricklayer, the principal person concerned, and John Jameson, also a workman, who appears to have held the poor girl down, and stifled her cries. The offence took place in a field, and at the same time Osborn gave her a severe blow on the mouth for crying out "Murder!" and robbed her of half a crown, which he said he would return to her at some future period. He did meet her again more than three months afterwards, and, showing her a half-crown, said, "Do you remember that?" She said, "Yes, and I'll make you remember it too." He was accordingly given in charge, and, as he was passing along to the station-house, he said to Jameson, who was working at a window, "Do you remember that Wednesday? I'm taken up on account of that job." Jameson was accordingly apprehended. The defence was the same as that usually set up in these cases—viz., that the girl had not taken sufficient pains to raise an alarm, and that therefore there was reason to suppose that she was a consenting party. With respect to Jameson, it was further contended that there was not sufficient evidence to establish his identity. Both the prisoners, however, were found Guilty, and sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude.

The following day at the same Assizes, James Magee, a pitman, was charged with the murder of his wife. They had both been drinking together at a public-house, and the wife got so drunk as to be insensible. Magee then knocked and kicked her about a good deal, and finally got her out into the road, where he was seen to continue his violence. He afterwards returned home by himself, being then, as one of the witnesses said, rather 'drunk,' and told his children to go and look for their mother, who was lying asleep on the road, and he didn't care if he never saw her again. They went, and found her in a dreadfully mangled condition, the scalp being torn from the back of her head, and her face covered with cuts and bruises. It was suggested by the prosecution that Magee had dragged his wife along the road by the hair of the head until the scalp was torn. The jury found Magee guilty of manslaughter, and he was sentenced to penal servitude for twenty years.

The Leigh Woods murder has been tried this week at Taunton. Charlotte Pugsley, it will be recollect, was a cook in the service of Mr. Bythesea, at Freshford, near Bath. John Beale, the prisoner, had also been a servant, and, though a married man, he made love to Charlotte Pugsley. The woman and he left Mr. Bythesea's together on the 9th of September. Shortly before then, Beale had been seen with a pistol in his possession. On the following day, he and Charlotte Pugsley were observed by a man near the scene of the murder, a secluded valley in Leigh Woods, called Nightingale Valley, and known as one of the most beautiful spots in England; and here in the evening the dead body of the woman was found in a pool of blood, shot through the temple, and with the throat cut. Beale appropriated her boxes, and gave some of her dresses away, saying they belonged to a sister of his who was just dead. This and some other statements which he made were false. Two pistols were found in his room, one unloaded, the other loaded; and the bullet found in the murdered woman's head corresponded with the size of these weapons. No motive for the act appears to be assignable. The counsel for the prisoner submitted that the case had not been fully made out, and that the death might have been accidental; but the jury found Beale Guilty, and sentence of death was passed.

Thomas Williams has been tried at Warwick for having feloniously sold some Enfield rifles, the property of the Queen. The Government has an establishment at Birmingham, where they receive from numerous contractors, in large quantities, the various parts of which a musket is composed; and these, after being examined and approved, are marked with a Government mark, and put in store. Williams is a lockfitter at this establishment, and it appears on the statement of a Mr. Charles Clarke, a gunmaker in London, that he (Williams) sold him the rifles in question. The prisoner was found Guilty. Misappropriation of these stores to a very great extent has been going on for some time past. Two other men have also been found Guilty of a like offence; and sentence in all of the cases has been deferred. A couple more cases have been postponed to the next Assizes, the accused being out on bail.

Thomas Miller has been tried at Taunton for the murder of Sarah Bower at Bathford on the 10th of October. It may be recollect that Miller killed both the woman and her husband in fit of obvious insanity. On this ground he was Acquitted.

James Oliver has been found Guilty at Newcastle of uttering a Bank of England note for 10/-, well knowing it to have been forged. The person cheated was a farmer of whom Oliver had purchased a bull, and it appears that he had only once before, in the whole course of his life, seen a bank-note! The prisoner was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

Henry Gibbs, a collector of poor rates in the parish of Birmingham, and Edward Griffin, the senior clerk in the levy department, have been tried at Warwick, the one on a charge of embezzling three sums of money, the property of the guardians, the other with aiding and abetting him. Gibbs would seem to have been the original offender; but Griffin, whose duty it was to check the other's accounts, and who speedily discovered his fellow officer's dishonesty, afterwards abetted him in the misappropriation of the parish money, and took his share of the plunder. This went on for some months; but at length Gibbs finding a discovery imminent, confessed all, and caused Griffin, as well as himself, to be arrested. On the trial, he was put into the witness-box against Griffin, as well as into the dock on his own account. Both were found Guilty, but Griffin only as an accessory after the fact. They were sentenced to hard labour for two years.

Mr. Andrew Halliday Carmichael, surgeon, has been tried at York on a charge of procuring abortion, and Acquitted. He was received at Mexborough, where he resides, with great rejoicing.

Two men, named Hinde and Wise, were tried at Newcastle on Wednesday, for a garotte robbery committed on this day twelvemonth. The prosecutor is a farmer, and he appears to have been drinking at a public-house in 'Boxing Night' fashion, and afterwards to have been waylaid, nearly strangled, and eased of his money. Both the accused were found Guilty, and were sentenced, Hinde to fifteen and Wise to six years' penal servitude.

John O'Harrow and William Daley have been found Guilty at the same Assizes of attempting to drown John Blackpool. This was a similar case to the last, though occurring at a much later period. The prosecutor was intoxicated, and the object was robbery. A sentence of penal servitude for twenty years was passed.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

George Nathaniel Hoskings, a surgeon's assistant, has pleaded guilty to a charge of embezzling various sums of money from his master, Mr. William Henry Gardner. It appeared that he had appropriated money to nearly the amount of £300, and that the frauds had extended over a period of two years. He had been in the habit of sending letters requesting payment of accounts, and of intercepting the answers. A betting book was said to have been found on him when he was taken into custody. His counsel, however, challenged the production of such a book, and contended that Hoskings had been harshly treated by Mr. Gardner. He had sat up twenty nights in succession for one of Mr. Gardner's patients, for which his employer charged two guineas a night, but did not give the prisoner a penny. (This was denied by Mr. Gardner). He had entered into business speculations; had got involved, and, being pushed by his creditors, had appropriated some of his employer's money, hoping to replace it from a sum of £500 which he expected to receive, but of which he was disappointed. Sentence was deferred.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE.—Two policemen observed two suspicious-looking fellows, early on Sunday morning, trying the lock of a door in Lambeth with a key. They failed to get in, and accordingly moved off; but the policeman followed, and asked one of them why he was loitering. He denied that he was doing so, and one of the constables, seeing something bulky under his coat, inquired what it was. He answered, "I'll show you;" and, drawing a life-preserver, struck the officer a severe blow on the neck, which stunned him for a time. The ruffian, however, was stopped by a gentleman, who was also struck by him, though not seriously. He has been examined at the Lambeth police-court, and remanded for a week.

THE MURDER AND SUICIDE IN ST. PANCRAS.—The inquest on the bodies of the man and woman found with their throats cut in Drummond-street, Euston-square, has concluded with the following verdict:—"That the deceased persons were found dead from exhaustion by loss of blood occasioned by incised wounds in their throats, but under what circumstances the said wounds were inflicted there was not sufficient evidence to show." The man has not been clearly identified, but it is thought he was a clerk in a firm at Rotterdam.

ALLEGED CRUELTY AT SEA.—Captain Robert McEachern, of the brig Heather Bell, has voluntarily appeared at the Thames police-court, to answer a charge of having caused one of his sailor boys to commit suicide on account of ill-usage. The magistrate, though clearly of opinion that the boy accidentally fell overboard, committed the captain for trial on the ground of alleged assault. Bail was accepted.

KIOT IN ST. GILES'S.—For several Sunday evenings, a species of faction fight between two parties of lads residing in Dudley-street, St. Giles's, and the Rookery, has been going on. Two of the youths got quarrelling last Sunday evening, when one of them drew a large clasp-knife, cut his adversary through the cheek, so that the tongue was nearly severed, and immediately made his escape.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY IN ST. PANCRAS.—An inquest has been held in Hardwicke-place, Harrington-square, Hampstead-road, on the body of Mrs. Charlotte Augusta Macdonald, who, after having inflicted serious injuries

with a razor on her husband and the servants, flung herself out of the second-floor window. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the acts were committed in a state of insanity.

A HUMAN BEER POT-STAND.—For some time past, the publicans in the neighbourhood of Worship-street police-court have lost a great many pewter pots. On Monday night, a man and his wife were seen by the police walking away with one of those vessels, and were taken into custody. At the station-house, the woman's hips exhibited an unnatural distension, and, finding confinement useless, she exhibited to the searcher a leather belt round her waist, suspended to which by hooks all round were a great many pint and quart measures. The man, when brought before the magistrate, said he had been out of work for nearly seven weeks, and that they were starving. His wife had acted entirely by his direction, and he wished the case to be settled by the magistrate. The woman was discharged, and the man sentenced to six months' hard labour.

A REVEREND FLOGGER.—The Rev. E. J. May, headmaster of the Brewers' Company's school at Tower Hill, appeared before the Lord Mayor on Tuesday, charged with beating John Henry Grossmith, one of the scholars, a boy ten and a half years old. One morning, when he went to school, he took a message from his mother to say that she wanted him to go home soon. Mr. May told him to go to his work; but he endeavoured to escape, and Mr. Cattermole, one of the other masters, brought him back to the room. There was a scuffle between them, and Mr. May asserts that the boy struck and kicked Mr. Cattermole very severely. On being brought back, the boy was caned by Mr. May for (as the lad states) ten minutes. He was struck on the thighs, and so much hurt that his mother was obliged to call in a medical man, and to confine him to his bed for some time. He was rather a delicate child, and the cane was a thick one. Mr. May's defence was that the boy was ill-behaved; that he constantly stayed away from school, and was insolent. In a letter to the boy's father, read in court, this edifying specimen of a Christian minister said that, had he known that the boy had struck Mr. Cattermole, the punishment would have been 'far more severe.' Mr. Grossmith said he was willing to accept an apology; but the professor of the religion of love was not disposed to make any, and the case was therefore sent to the Quarter Sessions. In the course of the investigation, the Lord Mayor made some excellent observations on the impropriety of punishing so young a child in so severe a manner, and on the questionable nature of corporal correction in schools at all.

MURDER IN NORTH DEVON.—A labouring man named John Barwick, living at the village of Lynton, North Devon, has been apprehended on the charge of murdering Maria Blackmoor, a young woman to whom he was engaged to be married. The victim had formerly been a dressmaker in Lynton, and had likewise lived for some time as maid-servant at the Valley of Rocks Hotel in the same place; but at the time she was murdered she was living with her mother. One evening, about ten or eleven days ago, she sent to Barwick, saying that she wished to see him, and he accordingly went to her mother's house and remained talking to her in the passage for upwards of a quarter of an hour. At the end of that time, the girl ran into the room where her mother was sitting, with her throat cut completely through, all the arteries being severed. After once exclaiming, "Oh, God, mother! I am bleeding!" she fell down, and immediately expired. Barwick in the meantime returned home, and told his sister that he had 'done' for Maria Blackmoor, adding, as he showed the blood-stained knife with which the deed had been committed, that, if his sister did not mind what she was about, he would likewise 'do' for her. The murderer was taken into custody in less than an hour after the occurrence. The coroner's inquest has terminated in a verdict of Wilful Murder.

DISREPUTABLE POLICEMEN.—Henry Brady, a policeman, has been found guilty at the Middlesex Sessions of an assault on Diedrich Rathgen, a German. He first grossly insulted Mrs. Rathgen in the streets at night; afterwards attacked her husband with his truncheon, on that gentleman taking his number; and finally took him into custody on a charge of assaulting him with a poker. He was sentenced to two years' hard labour.—A policeman named Monk has been charged at Marlborough-street police-office with perjury, in falsely swearing that two girls had been annoying gentleman in Piccadilly late at night. Shortly after he had taken the girls to the station-house, he was found drunk on his beat. On the following day, when the girls were brought before the magistrate, he was unable to establish the charge; and other statements which he made were shown to be false. He was therefore sentenced to hard labour for a month.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

A TICKET-OF-LEAVE man has appeared in the Court of Queen's Bench as the plaintiff in an action for false imprisonment. His name is Pickering, and he is now an artificial manure manufacturer, carrying on business at 9, Pigott-street, East India-road, Limehouse. He was

some years since in business in the same locality; but in August, 1851, he was tried and convicted at the Central Criminal Court on a charge of receiving stolen goods and sentenced to ten years' transportation. His conduct, however, in prison was so good, that at the end of four years he received a ticket of leave. He at once returned to his former place of residence, and resumed business on a very extensive scale, his transactions amounting to £15,000/- or 20,000/- a year. He had some dealings with the defendant, a Mr. Pooley, who managed a similar business for a Mr. Brown, of Rotherhithe. After some time, there was a balance on the account of about £5/- in Pickering's favour. He could not get the money, and therefore directed his attorney to write for it. Pooley took no notice of the application; and Pickering, being unwilling, in his peculiar position, to come before a court, allowed the matter to rest. On the 17th of August, the two happened to meet at the Blackwall Railway station, in Fenchurch-street. Pickering asked Pooley in a friendly way when he was to have his account. The latter denied his liability; some angry words ensued, and Pooley called out aloud for a policeman, "to take this ticket-of-leave man into custody," asserting that he had no right to be at large, and that he was endeavouring to extort money. He was given into custody, and was followed to the station by a large crowd, Pooley all the while shouting, "There is Tom Pickering, the returned convict." At the station-house, Pooley denied having had any business transactions with Pickering; but the latter was discharged. In cross-examination, Pooley admitted having made use of the offensive expressions, but said he was not out of temper. Mr. Justice Erle, in summing up, said that persons in the position of the plaintiff ought to be protected as much as if there had been no previous stain on their character; and the jury gave a verdict for Pickering, with damages to the extent of £10/-.

A Mr. Dorritt has appeared in the Bankruptcy Court, as if following out the fortunes of his namesake in the novel. He holds the situation of bailiff of the County Court, Rochester, and assistant overseer of several adjoining parishes. Opposition was made to the granting of a certificate, on the ground that he had fraudulently traded in the name of Mr. French, his father-in-law, as the proprietor of Will's coffee-house, Saffron-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, and had vexatiously defended actions. The coffee-house in question is the place celebrated as one of the haunts of Sir Roger de Coverley, and is constantly mentioned by the wits of Queen Anne's reign, who used to idle there and to work there. The bankrupt's debts are £1200/-; the assets about £300. The Commissioner thought the allegations against the bankrupt had not been made out, and granted him a third-class certificate.

The adjourned hearing of the petition in the matter of the Surrey Gardens Company was heard in the Court of Bankruptcy last Saturday, and was again adjourned. It was stated that the committee of shareholders have to a great extent settled their difficulties, and that offers of ten shillings in the pound have been made to the simple contract creditors, one half being paid by the shareholders, and the other by claims on the gardens.

Three persons bearing remarkable names were charged at Worship-street last Saturday with distinct offences. William Shakespeare, the first prisoner, had been found engaged in a suspicious manner at the window of a tobacconist in Union-street, Spitalfields. This man was said to be the associate of a well-known criminal named Tom Moore. James Graham, the second prisoner, was taxed with stealing some sheet lead; and Daniel Lambert, the third person accused (a little man), was found by the police at a late hour in the streets, drunk, incapable, and noisy. It was said in court that all the names were genuine; but we doubt this in some of the instances. Lambert was fined five shillings, and discharged; the two others were remanded.

Colonel Burrows Wilcox Arthur Sleigh, a person connected for some time with the newspaper press, was examined on Monday in the Bankruptcy Court before Mr. Commissioner Holroyd. He at first declined to tell what his occupation had been since 1850, and afterwards observed that it would really be difficult to say what he had been since that date. "He believed his occupation was going abroad. He travelled as a gentleman." In Prince Edward's Island, he was a colonel in the militia and a justice of the peace. He had purchased an estate there, but there was a lawsuit about the property, and he re-assigned it to a Captain Gray. On again coming to England, he became connected with newspapers. The *British Army Dispatch* was for a time his property, and he and two others set up the *Daily Telegraph*. 1500/- were advanced him to start that journal with. He afterwards bought the shares of the other partners for 450/-; but ultimately he sold the property, and he has now no concern whatever in the *Telegraph*. He had contested Greenwich, Midhurst, and Boston, and had in that way lost 993/. His gold military appointments, which cost him 150/-, he resold for 7/- or 8/-, as they were out of date. The bankrupt's balance sheet showed that he had been living at the rate of 1000/- a year; but the assets are only 50/-, and are doubtful. The colonel, however, passed.

An action was brought in the Court of Common Pleas on Monday, to recover the amount for which a vessel had been insured by the defendant as underwriter. It in-

volved a point of some novelty and interest. During the period of time when the vessel was tossing about in the storm, one policy of insurance expired, and another came into operation. The defendant, who was an underwriter under the first policy, therefore said that, although he was liable for a portion of the loss, yet that the underwriters under the second policy ought to contribute. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiffs. The sum of £1737/-, having been paid into court (being after the rate of sixty per cent.), they stated that eighty-five per cent was the proper proportion.

The first meeting in the Bankruptcy Court for the proof of debts and choice of assignees under the failure of William Bromley Filler, merchant, of Lime-street, City, took place on Monday. The liabilities amount to £43,458/-, and the bankrupt attributes his stoppage to the non-arrival of remittances from abroad. Debts to the amount of nearly £5000/- having been proved, Mr. Quilter, of Coleman-street, was appointed trade assignee. An allowance of 4/- per week was granted, to be increased to 5/- provided the accounts were filed in time for the first examination meeting.

The affairs of the London and Eastern Banking Corporation having adjourned into Vice-Chancellor Sir William Page Wood's court, from chambers, on a question concerning the appointment of an official assignee, the matter came on for hearing on Monday. A contest had arisen before the chief clerk as to the person to be appointed, the committee of management and the Oriental Bank supporting the appointment of Mr. Stuart, one of the principal officers of the Oriental Bank, and Mr. Coleman, the accountant; while other shareholders supported the appointment of Mr. Ball and Mr. Harding, accountants. The chief clerk adopted the views of the latter class, and appointed Messrs. Ball and Harding; upon which the other party brought the case into court. The Vice-Chancellor left it to the counsel for the principal shareholders to choose either Mr. Ball or Mr. Harding; and they chose the former, as having been first named. The official managers, therefore, will be Mr. Stuart and Mr. Ball. The costs of all parties are to be costs under the winding-up.

A conflict is going on between the Insolvent Debtors Court and the Sheriff's Court as to the release of a journeyman printer. The former court had given him a certificate; but it appears that the man had put in a false account of one of his debts, and the Sheriff's Court accordingly objects to his release, and asserts that the Insolvent Court has no legal right to discharge a debtor.

Two gentlemen were charged at the Southwark police-court, on Monday, with being concerned with a disreputable woman in stealing a watch from a painter and glazier. The man was returning home along the Blackfriars-road, somewhat the worse for liquor, when he was accosted by the woman, whom he repulsed, but she kept by him for a time, then endeavoured to force him up a dark side street, and finally gave his arm a twist, and ran off, joining, as the man states, the two gentlemen. He immediately afterwards missed his watch, and followed the gentlemen as far as Fleet-street, when he gave them into custody, and they were locked up during the night, though positively denying their guilt. After a patient investigation before the magistrate, it became evident that the glazier had made a lamentable mistake, and the two gentlemen were discharged, with an expression of opinion by the magistrate that there was not a stain on their character.

Some complaints have been made before the Marylebone magistrate that a person calling himself the Hon. George Chichester, clerk of the peace for Belfast, or Lord Chichester, had fraudulently obtained goods from several tradesmen. It is certain that various things have been ordered, by some one so calling himself, to be sent to 6, Upper Hyde Park-street, Hyde Park-square. The complainants, however, cannot prove any false pretence, and so the matter rests.

Love-stories will sometimes get into the law courts; and a strange one was unfolded on Monday in the Court of Exchequer. The Hon. Miss Mary Jones, a sister of Lord Ranleigh, became acquainted some time ago with a so-called Count Wosakowski, a fellow-lodger in Ebury-street, Pinicchio. He was a Polish patriot, an exile who had passed through many strange adventures, and was poor. Moreover, he was young, being only eight-and-twenty; and the lady had somewhat passed the age of blossoming. So, though the gentleman was a good deal involved with 'his pawnbroker' and with various tradesmen, Miss Jones soon yielded up her heart, and something of her cash. She handed over to him 100/-, which the count, in the chivalry of his soul, would only consent to receive as a loan. He therefore drew up a receipt, affixing thereto a penny stamp—but a stamp of a wrong kind, as he afterwards informed a friend in confidence, taking great credit to himself for his discretion. This friend, however, was so mean as to 'betray' him at the trial, and so the fact comes out. Meanwhile, the lawyers met, to agree about the marriage settlement, when the Count refused to continue the match unless half the lady's fortune were settled on him. The match was accordingly broken off, and the action for the recovery of the 100/- commenced. This was met by a set-off, in the shape of certain expenses which the scamp said he had put himself to at the lady's request. The

Count was subjected to a scathing examination by Mr. Edwin James, who elicited from him that he had been for some time past in the habit of making love to ladies, obtaining money from them, and then flying to fresh game. Among his temporary conquests was Mrs. Swinfen, the heroine of the great *Swinfen v. Swinfen* will case. From her he obtained 300*l.*, as the price of returning her letters. The jury of course found for the plaintiff, and the verdict was received with applause. [M. Szulcowski has written to the daily papers to deny that Wołkowski is a Pole.]

A working man named Ritchie has brought an action in the Court of Exchequer against a shopkeeper named Watkins, for an injury received by him. He was passing by the shop, when a boy employed by Watkins threw out at a dog an instrument shot with iron, called a 'long arm,' which is used to pull down the window blind over the shop front. It struck Ritchie on the ankle, and he was about to strike the boy, when, as he states, Mr. Watkins came into the shop, admitted that the iron had been thrown by his orders, and made an apology. The injury afterwards proved to be serious, and, with medical attendance and leaving off work, Ritchie estimated his loss at 15*l.* Watkins, however, repudiated all liability; and therefore this action was brought. The boy, after some hesitation, was put into the witness-box by the plaintiff's counsel; and he gave a very vague account of the matter. He could not say positively whether or not his master had ordered him to throw the implement. The jury found a verdict for the defendant, the Lord Chief Baron having expressed some doubt as to whether Mr. Watkins would be liable even if he had ordered the boy to throw the missile at the dog.

Sir John Dodson, in the Prerogative Court on Tuesday, gave judgment in the case of a disputed will. The disputants were two brothers, and the question was of the ordinary kind—viz., whether at the time the mother made the will she was in a proper state of mind for doing so. The elder brother contended that she was not, owing to her having had a convulsive fit, accompanied by paralysis; but Sir John Dodson pronounced in favour of the document, and condemned the elder brother in 30*l.*, *nomine expensarum*.

An application was made in the Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday by the Unity Bank, for leave to prove against the separate estate of Octavius King. At the time the bond on the strength of which the application was made was given, Octavius King was not of age; and Mr. Commissioner Evans was therefore of opinion that the proof could not be admitted.

Several owners of supper-rooms in and near the Hay-market were summoned at the Marlborough-street, police-office on Tuesday for selling wine, beer, and spirits without a license. They were severally fined in the full penalty of 50*l.*

Mr. John Doherty, the bankrupt corn merchant, against whom a charge of forgery was preferred at the recent Liverpool assizes, came up on the question of certificate at the Liverpool Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday. Mr. Aspinall, who appeared for the assignees, objected to the certificate on several grounds, the chief of which were that the bankrupt had traded with the grossest recklessness; that he had made fraudulent preferences, principally to the Liverpool Borough Bank; that he had practised frauds upon the bank itself; and that upon the faith of a duplicate bill of lading he had obtained money fraudulently from Messrs. Bingham and Co., corn merchants, of Liverpool, the real bill of lading having previously been deposited by the bankrupt, and advanced upon by a Mr. Hubback. Doherty refused to answer several questions, on the ground that he should criminate himself; but enough was elicited to place him in an awkward position.

A petition was presented in the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday for a winding-up order against the West Ham Distillery Company. The 4th of January was fixed for hearing the case, and Mr. Whitmore was appointed receiver.

The last sitting of the Prerogative Court took place on Tuesday, when its existence came to a termination after lasting about five centuries.

The Lord Chancellor on Tuesday gave judgment on an appeal from Vice-Chancellor Stuart's judgment in the case of Robson v. the Earl of Devon and others. The plaintiff is a stockbroker, and he filed the bill in the present suit against the Earl of Devon and the other members of a committee of management of a company which was started in 1852, called the Melbourne Gold and General Mining Association, a Mr. Moore, the promoter of the company, and Mr. Tripp, a broker, to recover payment of a loan of 500*l.* advanced to the company, and also the value of certain shares of the company which he took, as he alleges, through the false and fraudulent representations of certain persons who were agents of the directors. The Vice-Chancellor dismissed the plaintiff's bill, with costs; and the Lord Chancellor now confirmed that judgment, except as regards Moore and Tripp, and added to it that it was made without prejudice to the right of Robson to bring an action. The costs of the appeal could not be allowed. The Lords Justices concurred.

In the case of an insolvent debtor of the name of Kelly, a charge was made against Mr. Giles, an at-

torney, of Basinghall-street, and Mr. Drew, his clerk, that they had overcharged the insolvent on undertaking to transact his business. The Chief Commissioner, having heard the statements on both sides, said it was clear that there had been an overcharge of 7*l.*, and added that Messrs. Giles and Drew would not in future be allowed to interfere in the business of the court.

James Charles Johns, a bill-broker and commission agent of Duchess-street, Portland-place, was examined in the Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday. Among the debtors to his estate are—S. W. Stevenson, late of the Carabiniers, 450*l.*; Captain Present, 267*l.*; Mr. Paxton, son of Sir Joseph Paxton, 463*l.* Johns is a horse-racing man; has been concerned in a great many bill transactions and other discreditable matters; and was mixed up with the case of Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Chichester which came some time back before the Kingston Assizes. The bankrupt stated that from 1838 to the present time the debts of which he had been relieved by that court and the Insolvent Debtors' Court amounted to at least 14,000*l.* The Commissioner said it was a scandalous case; there were no assets. An adjournment sine die was ordered.

The Court of Queen's Bench has been occupied for several days during the present week with a trial arising out of that constantly reappearing case of alleged adultery between Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Evans. Mr. Robinson having on a former occasion sworn that he never had any criminal connexion with Mrs. Evans, he was now indicted for perjury; but the jury were unable to agree as to their verdict and were discharged. The case must therefore be tried again. Some disgust has been excited at Mrs. Evans herself being put in the witness-box by the prosecution. She of course denied the guilt imputed to her.

An action was brought in the Court of Queen's Bench last Saturday, by a Mr. Henry Brown, against a surgeon living in Judd-street, St. Pancras, who had some months ago accepted a bill of exchange for 42*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, of which Mr. Brown was the second endorser, but which was not paid when it came due. About the middle of last May, a man named Bradley, a builder, called upon Mr. Hopton (the defendant), who was in the habit of attending Bradley's family, and asked him to accept a bill for his accommodation. Mr. Hopton acceded to this request; but some time afterwards Mr. Brown called upon him, and inquired if the acceptance was his, and he told him that it was, but was merely an accommodation bill. Mr. Brown, who professed to be a bill-discounter, on hearing this, advised Mr. Hopton to be cautious, as Bradley was not worth a farthing. At a subsequent period, Mr. Brown proposed that Hopton should pay him (Brown) 3*l.* 10*s.* for the expenses he had been put to, and he would then give up the bill entirely. As, however, this appeared to Mr. Hopton like extortion, he would not consent to it. In October, Mr. Brown called again about the bill, and on the 15th of that month Mr. Hopton informed him that he had seen Bradley, who repudiated what he had told him, and, further, that Bradley had received no consideration for his endorsement. Shortly after this, Mr. Brown wrote to Mr. Hopton, saying that, if he would give him a written statement to the effect that Bradley had fraudulently obtained the bill from the acceptor, and would pay his expenses, and likewise indemnify him against any proceedings Bradley might take, he would give up the bill. Bradley, however, declared that he never received any money from the plaintiff, to whom he had made repeated requests to return him his bill, which he refused to do unless he were paid a certain sum. Bradley, therefore, raised 100*l.* upon some goods from a pawnbroker, which he handed over to Mr. Brown, and at the same time paid him 4*l.* 10*s.* for his trouble. He afterwards sold him the pawn-tickets for 40*l.*, for which sum Bradley gave him a receipt, as Mr. Brown said that he could get the money from another person; but it was never paid. A counter-statement, denying several of these assertions, was made by the plaintiff, who said he discounted the bill for Bradley on the 29th of last May, and that Bradley gave him a receipt for the money, which, together with several others, had previously been shown to the court. After a brief deliberation, the jury returned a verdict in favour of the defendant.

Another case involving accommodation bill transactions came before the Bankruptcy Court on Thursday. Charles Warwick, the defendant, a fancy dress warehouseman, appears to have been a good deal mixed up with these matters, and, being asked by the Commissioner why he had entered upon them, he replied, "I wanted money to carry on my business." An adjournment has been ordered, as there is some doubt as to whether the bankrupt has not misappropriated goods to the amount of 600*l.*

ARMY REFORM.

The Commander-in-Chief has issued an important document touching the education of Staff officers. It is thus summarized in the *Daily News*:

"The Duke has decreed that the Senior Department at Sandhurst is to be converted into a Staff College. This college is to be open to all arms of the service. There are to be at first thirty students, twenty-five from the Cavalry and Infantry and five from the Artillery

and Engineers. These thirty officers will thus be the élite of the whole British army. They will be those officers of three years' standing who can prove their right to admission into the Staff College by a competitive examination. It matters not whether an officer be at home or abroad. If he can procure the sanction of his commanding officer—and that sanction cannot be refused except on grounds distinctly stated—he may enter into competition. The list of competitors being fixed, out of all officers who have served three years, these select men will be examined either in London or by printed papers before a special board on foreign stations. The subjects absolutely essential in this trial for entrance into the Staff College are mathematics, military history and geography, and French. The rest are optional. The examination will be conducted by the Military Council of Education. The successful candidates will then enter the Staff College, where they will remain two years. During that time they will devote themselves chiefly to the study of mathematics, French, fortification, and gunnery, reconnaissance, military drawing, military history, military geography, and military administration. Besides monthly reports of the progress of each officer to the Council of Military Education, there will be half-yearly examinations. The winter examination will be conducted by gentlemen independent of the establishment. Officers are not to contribute a farthing towards their education at the Staff College, and therefore the authorities are bound to see that they come there for the purpose of serious study. Accordingly, it is specially provided that if any officer in the establishment shows either idleness or inferior capacity, he may be removed at any period of his two years' career. Moreover, in order to open the door to Staff officers as widely as possible, it is provided that an officer may apply for admission for one year instead of two; but to obtain this privilege, he must show himself equal in attainments to those who have already passed one year at Sandhurst. In addition to this, even at the final examination at the close of the second year, any officer in the army is to be allowed to submit himself to the examiners, and, if he can prove himself superior to those who have passed through the college, he is to be entitled to his place on the Staff, just as if he had resided there. The final examinations—the first of which will take place in December, 1858—will be held once a year, and the Council of Military Education will submit to the Commander-in-Chief the list of successful candidates in all the classes, with a special report of those who have most distinguished themselves. After the 1st of January, 1860, those officers, and those officers alone, who have obtained the certificate of the Military Council of Education, will be entitled to hold Staff appointments. There are, indeed, two exceptions. The first is the case of officers of proved ability in the field; the second is that of officers who, on the 1st of January, 1860, shall have attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The candidates for Staff appointments, after having satisfied the Sandhurst examiners, have still a further course of education to pass through. The officer who comes to college from the infantry is to be attached to each of the arms in which he has not served. He must make himself acquainted with the discipline, the interior economy, the field movements, and the duties of these arms. The same thing must be done by the cavalry officer, the engineer officer, and the artillery officer."

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

LORD PALMERSTON'S MORTAR.—The 36-inch mortar designed by Lord Palmerston was again subjected to a trial at the close of last week, and again showed signs of defective construction.

IRON GUNBOATS.—Messrs. Rennie and Sons have completed three of a number of small high-pressure iron gun-boats ordered by the East India Company for river service in the East.

THE REINFORCEMENTS FOR INDIA.—The European and American Steam Navigation Company's ship *Argo*, Captain Benson, left Spithead last Saturday for India with detachments of troops to the number of nearly nine hundred.

A BRIG DESTROYED BY FIRE.—The Sardinian brig *Ponto Maurizio*, Captain Busolino, one hundred and seventy-eight tons, of and for Genoa from Newcastle, with a cargo of gas coals, suddenly took fire on Sunday morning at about two o'clock, whilst riding before two anchors in Yarmouth Roads, where she had brought up some days previously for safety. All efforts to subdue the flames were fruitless.

THE LASH AGAIN.—A gunner belonging to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Artillery was flogged on Monday morning at Woolwich for stealing a sovereign. After being discharged from the infirmary, the man will be imprisoned for eighty-four days. Seventeen artillery-men are now awaiting trial at Woolwich.

DISTRESSED WIVES AND FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS.—Colonel Phipps has stated, in answer to certain memorials of the Queen, that her Majesty can do nothing in aid of the distressed wives and families of the soldiers sent on active service in India, and who have been quartered near Woolwich, Plumstead, &c. The same sufferings have been equally borne by the families of other soldiers, and her Majesty cannot make an exception in

favour of the persons referred to. The Queen, however, "cannot but feel pleasure at the sympathy and kind assistance" extended to the distressed relatives of the soldiers.

THE LATE MAJOR BURTON.—Mr. Vernon Smith, the President of the India Board, has just shown his sympathy with the family of the late Major Burton, by the offer of a cadetship to one of his sons.

SHIPWRECKS.—The screw steam-ship, Earl of Carrick, has been wrecked off the Isle of Man. All but two hands were lost.—The Wallace, of Leith, Captain Cormea, was struck by a tremendous sea while on her return voyage from Quebec to Greenock, and capsized. She was then eight hundred miles distant from Cape Clear. Every effort was made to right the vessel; but another heavy sea struck her, washing overboard the chief officer and the steward. The remainder of the crew held on to the wreck (for the masts had by this time gone), and for ten days drifted without food or water. They were obliged to kill a favourite dog, to save themselves from death, and to eat the flesh raw. Ultimately, they were taken off by the Collina, Captain Robins. All but one survived. The Golden Age, of and from Halifax for Ponce, Porto Rico, was thrown on her beam ends in a heavy squall, on the 9th of November, and all her crew washed overboard, except one man, who was taken from the wreck on the 22nd, by the Reindeer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen and Royal family removed from Osborne to Windsor last Saturday.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The marriage treaty of the Princess Royal with the Prince of Prussia has been signed at the Foreign-office, by the Prussian Minister and Lord Clarendon, and also by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The nuptials will take place in January.

THE PRINCESS ALICE.—The story with respect to the hand of the Princess Alice having been demanded for the Prince of Orange, is denied by the *Observer*.

COMMUTATION OF PUNISHMENT.—In the case of Frances Harris, who lies under sentence of death at Winchester, for the murder of her child at Portsmouth, the Secretary of State has thought right, under all the circumstances, to advise a commutation of the capital sentence to penal servitude for life.

THE INDIAN MUTINY RELIEF FUND.—The Hon. Chas. Murray, her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran, has sent £100,000 to the fund, at the same time expressing a hope that other members of the diplomatic profession will follow his example. Our ambassador at Vienna has transmitted to Alderman Finnis the sum of £150,000, the subscription of Baron Anselm Rothschild to the fund.

THE SIAMESE AMBASSADORS have been visiting Liverpool.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—An agitation has been going on throughout the week in favour of making this day (Saturday) a general holiday, so as to give working men and men of business a relaxation from toil of three days. The Lord Mayor, upon leaving the bench at the Mansion House last Saturday, spoke warmly in favour of the suggestion, and was loudly applauded. This demonstration of feeling, however, was of course checked. It is believed that the day will be very generally observed as a holiday.

SUICIDE.—A Mr. Kilby, who a few days ago was charged at the Mansion House with an attempted robbery, but who was set at liberty by the Lord Mayor with an assurance that there was not the slightest stain on his character, has cut his throat under the influence of the depression and mortification caused by his having been given into custody.

MR. JAMES CORROCK, the well-known electioneering agent, died at his house in Cleveland-row last Saturday evening, after an illness of only four days. He was fifty-nine years of age. Though a lawyer by profession, he devoted himself almost entirely to the struggles of constituencies, and was mixed up with transactions which were neither to the credit of himself or his clients. He appears, however, to have been always faithful to the Liberal party, and his word was invariably relied on in the case of 'compromises.' Last August, on the death of Mr. Delane, he was made treasurer of the Kent County Courts. His death appears to have been occasioned by annoyance at the imputations which were cast on his character in connexion with the failure of the Surrey Garden Company, of which he was a shareholder and leading director. Mr. William Augustus Tollemache succeeds him in the office which he held for so brief a time.

WILLIAM RUSSELL OF THE TIMES.—Mr. William H. Russell, the celebrated Crimean correspondent of the *Times*, takes his departure this day for India, by the Overland Mail, to report the dénouement of the revolt in the leading journal. It is scarcely probable that Mr. Russell will reach the seat of the insurrection in time to see fight, but having in the Crimea employed his genius as a painter of battles, he will now have an opportunity of dissecting the causes and consequences of a rebellion the last sparks of which will be trampled out by the time he arrives on the scene.

THE REFORM MOVEMENT.—A public meeting has been held at Rochdale, convened by the Mayor, at which a resolution was carried in favour of very radical reform of Parliament, including manhood suffrage. A petition to the House of Commons was agreed to.—We read in the *Daily Telegraph*:—"It is with great satisfaction we announce that the Reformers of the United Kingdom are making rapid progress in their organization. The manifesto lately circulated by the press has received the adhesion of Mr. Richard Cobden, Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. Bright, Mr. Hadfield, Mr. White, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. Miall, and the representatives of Leicester, Dundalk, Clare County, Hull, Bolton, Halifax, Northampton, Frome, Bury, and Lambeth. Moreover, the leading Liberals out of the House of Commons are joining the union with enthusiasm, including, we believe, Mr. George Wilson of Manchester, Mr. Robertson Gladstone of Liverpool, Mr. Titus Salt of Bradford, Mr. Charles Neate of Oxford, Mr. Bass of Brighton, Mr. Samuel Morley, Mr. Humphreys Parry, and others whose names will, of course, attract the materials of a powerful and continually increasing organization."

THE EAST INDIAN GOVERNMENT.—The *Globe* announces, in an apparently official manner, that the double government of India is to be abolished, and that the administration of our Eastern empire is to be brought under the direct authority of the Queen.

RETURN OF BARON BRUNOW.—Baron Brunow has been reappointed by the Czar ambassador to this country.

THE CROWN JEWELS.—A dispute has been going on for some time between the Hanoverian Ministers and the Court of St. James's, with respect to the British Crown Jewels. Hanover claims these, on the ground that some of them were taken with him to England by George I., and that others, which were bought out of his privy purse by George III., were left by him and Queen Charlotte to the Royal family of Hanover. The jewels are worth considerably more than a million. After a great deal of private litigation, the matter, it is said, has been decided in favour of Hanover.

THE ELECTIONS.—Mr. Grant Duff has been elected by show of hands, and without opposition, for the Elgin district of burghs. Sir James Weir Hogg, the other candidate, retired from the contest; but the proceedings were riotous.—A nomination of a member for Bucks in the room of the Hon. C. C. Cavendish, who has been raised to the House of Peers, took place on Wednesday at the County-hall, Aylesbury, the High Sheriff of the County presiding. The show of hands was in favour of Captain C. J. B. Hamilton, formerly member for Aylesbury. A poll was then demanded in behalf of Mr. W. G. Cavendish, son of the late member. A third candidate, Mr. Acton Tindal, lord of the manor, withdrew. The polling will take place to-day.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, December 26.

FRANCE.

A COUNCIL, at which the Emperor presided (says the *Morning Star* of this day) was held on Wednesday, the subject under consideration at which is understood to have been that of agriculture and assurances. The Emperor has left Paris for Rambouillet, for a day's shooting.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN NAPLES.

Some additional particulars of this catastrophe are given in a letter from Naples, the writer of which says:—"Vesuvius is now in full activity; but, for some days previous to the earthquake, no fire issued from the crater. Whenever the mountain emits fire or lava, we feel quite safe, and you may well suppose how gratifying is the present appearance of our safety-valve. Whatever accounts you may read of the state of this city at the time of the shocks, it will fall short of the reality. Women were seen carrying their children—men helping some father or mother, or some sick person wrapped up in the first covering available; women screaming, tearing their hair, praying, and calling on their patron saint and the Madonna Immaculata, all passing frantically in densely crowded streets." There has been a slight shock of earthquake near Liebenzell, Wurtemberg.

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLMASTERS.—The fourth annual meeting of the United Association of Schoolmasters will be held at the House of the Society of Arts, on Monday and Tuesday the 28th and 29th inst. All the sittings will be given free of charge to all persons interested in the subject.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL UNIONS.—A meeting of some of the old reformers of Birmingham has been held at the public office, the object of which was to consider whether an effective union of the middle and working classes could be established, for the purpose of aiding a movement for an extensive measure of reform in the next session of Parliament. The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday, January 5, in order that the necessary preliminary steps might be taken for the formation of a Reformers' Union.—*Morning Star*.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.
We are again compelled, by the extraordinary pressure of political, and more especially of literary matter, to omit our 'Portfolio' this week.

G—x is thanked for his suggestion, but there are special reasons for not making the alteration.

Several communications unavoidably stand over. No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications

The Leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1857.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DE ANGOL.

CHRISTMAS POLITICS.

THE season of Christian joy and charity brings to a close a year of widespread suffering and disaster. To thousands of families this Christmas is but a contrast to the last, bitterly reminding the bereaved of their desolation. To the poor it has not been one of happy comfort; they are paying the price of recklessness and criminality among the rich. But God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb. Many a home, last week oppressed by an anguish of doubt, was suddenly irradiated on Wednesday when the glad tidings were announced that those brave men, and beloved women, and dear children, so long in fearful peril at Lucknow, had been rescued by 'the CAMPBELL's coming.' The Christmas of England was happier on account of that intelligence, which so many trembled to hear. Yet a blood-coloured ray streams from the prism of our passing history; the victory was not without its terrible cost, and for those who were saved from death, others died during the conflict of mortal enemies raging for six days in front of Lucknow. The trite language of consolation plays like an idle wind around the miserable solitude of those who had sons and brothers there; and yet it is gracious to offer balm, although it cannot heal, and it is not perhaps in vain to hope that they who speak in the name of the Prince of Peace and Giver of Life may piously assuage the sorrows even of those to whom bereavement is newest. The duty of these days of worship and festival is to remember that benevolence is the highest virtue in the heart of grace, and that all men may do something towards the promotion of good-will on earth. It is not in the East alone, where rebellion has howled like a tempest, that sufferings deep and poignant have been endured. Our labouring classes at home, now that Christmas tables are bright and warm with abundance, suffer from want of employment and hunger. The Christmas of the poor—thousands of them—has been such that they might well cast wistful glances at the kitchens of Millbank and Coldbath-fields. Have we taken thought of this? The year 1857 wears its holly-crown, and assumes its red-sprinkled sceptre, and stately and modest habitations alike have glowed ruddily with the light of fires and lamps, and merriment has dissipated the night, and children have been grateful for the benignant love of their parents, and the end of December has been the summer of English homes. We would not see the young faces overshadowed, or an intrusion of melancholy at the fireside; but humanity should spare some moments, even while it rejoices, to

reflect upon the chill and dismal Christmas of the thousands from whom commercial gambling has withdrawn for a time the means of life. What is the merry day to them? They hear the tintinabulations of Christmas, and they look wan, and their little ones have scant food, and their clothing has been exchanged for bread, and, if they have heard of Christian brotherhood, they wish that the rich man would think that he has brethren outside the door. And often the rich man does think, and is munificent; but this is a season of extraordinary claims. With no kill-joy motive, we point to the unnumbered orphans and widows who have lost the hope of their lives on Indian battle-fields, and to the hard-handed workmen at home to whom a commercial crisis means destitution. The wind, we say, has been tempered to the shorn lamb. The physical cruelties of winter have not hitherto been felt by the suffering poor; but there is work enough for benevolence to perform, even under the sneer of that immaculate science which says to the famished labourer, "Young man, if nature has provided no knife and fork for you at her table, it's time you died!" Wisdom cries "Patience" to the poor, and whispers "Charity" to the rich.

This Christmas we pay the penalties of indifference and improvidence. Our prosperity in India seduced us into neglect, and while the empire, widened the treachery of a hundred thousand soldiers prepared itself for action under our very eyes. We, or our heaven-born rulers, were too proud to take precautions, and we have had to struggle for existence. Our prosperity at home lured us into commercial excesses, and our social law is that the classes least responsible shall endure the heaviest punishment. But, if we moralize, let us moralize justly. Administrators and speculators are the scapegoats of our day, but turn them into the desert, and will righteousness remain alone in the land? Sect, faction, selfishness, arrogance, apathy, will still inhabit their palaces and their cottages, and speak from printing-presses, platforms, pulpits, and divide the nation against itself. It is not only that armies are destroying one another in India, or that ruin has broken up the basis of trade, that a pestilence has decimated Lisbon, or that an earthquake has shaken Naples; the earth breeds a million of petty wrongs, and, in addition to war, famine, plague, or a crisis that scatters fortunes like a storm, the malignant parasites climb and cling; not even time extirpates them. The divine holiday has never yet been celebrated—the one Christmas day of universal release from passion, animosity, and egotism. Trade ceases, churches are opened, labour rests, the people revel; but war and the causes of war, rancour and the principle of evil, continue at work without a cessation or a sabbath. But wandering among these moralists—the circle of cynicism—we reach the hope and prophecy of our commemoration,—that life is more powerful than death, and that, toiling, and enduring, by the sweat of the brow, and through the blood of battles, mankind is in pursuit of a blessing of which the foestate can only be enjoyed by those who worship with the heart, and on that altar light a flame of charity to hallow Christmas and the other three hundred and sixty-four days of the year.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

THE merchants, bankers, and traders of London will not readily forget the deep gloom that hung over the City the second week of November. Each day had its special disasters;

the great City annual festival inaugurating a new Mayordom was clouded by the news of the stoppage of DENNISTOUN and Co., of London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, and by the failure of the Western Bank of Scotland; the next day witnessed the fall of SANDERSON, SANDEMAN and Co.; the next, the City of Glasgow Bank, accompanied by a run on other of the Glasgow banks, as well as by discredit in Ireland; the following morning was one of anxiety and distrust, men's minds on the rack, and a general feeling pervading the commercial community that some great change was impending: that things could not go on much longer as they were: that the fever had reached its height: that the crisis had come: and that a few hours must witness a pretty general 'crumbling to atoms' or the dawn of returning confidence. Happily, a favourable change took place, and City men returned home to dinner with better appetites than might have been anticipated, and with minds greatly relieved. The means of relief was the Treasury letter which arrived in the afternoon of the 12th, authorizing the Bank of England to create additional notes upon the deposit of securities. This satisfied all commercial houses who held real and *bona fide* paper that there would be no insuperable objection to their obtaining accommodation if necessary, and so an intolerable burden of anxiety and suspense was taken off the public mind.

The Treasury letter was expressed in no ambiguous terms; indeed, for a Government manifesto, it was remarkably explicit. The cause of the interference of the Executive was stated to be 'the recent failure of certain joint-stock banks in England and Scotland, as well as of certain large mercantile firms, chiefly connected with the American trade.' Parliament met three weeks later, when HER MAJESTY, with that clear and distinct utterance on which reporters love to dwell, announced from the throne that the failure of 'certain joint-stock banks and commercial firms'—had compelled her to assemble both Houses of Parliament at that unwonted period of the year; and the very same expression about the joint-stock banks and American houses was inserted in the Act of Parliament which is now enrolled in the annals of the nation, and from which future historians will derive their materials for the narrative of the disasters of 1857.

On three several public occasions, then—in the letter from the Treasury, in the speech from the Throne, and in the Act of Parliament—it is formally recorded that the immediate cause of the deliberate violation of the law of the land, and the consequent assembling of the Legislature, was the discredit and distrust occasioned by these failures. The public had taken the alarm; various rumours, partly founded on truth and partly exaggerations and distortions of the truth, were current in the clubs and other places of public resort; and in consequence the joint-stock banks, which had in some quarters been previously over-praised, were now by the very same parties brought under suspicion; large transfers of their deposits were made into Government Stock and other investments; and their establishments generally were subjected to an ordeal of a trying character, through which the greater part of them have safely passed.

It is pretty generally understood that the management of these banks will form one of the subjects of inquiry before the new Committee, when probably some clearer notions will be gained of the nature of their operations, and the influence they have had with reference to the late commercial crisis. The experience they have acquired during the late trying events will not be lost on them,

and they will no doubt reconsider many of the practices which had grown up in connexion with their modern mode of banking, and take such steps generally as they may consider desirable to avoid for the future undue risks—security being, as all confess, the first great object in every well-conducted banking establishment.

The great element of weakness in the modern system of joint-stock banking appears to be the allowance of a high rate of interest on money deposited with them. In cases where large sums of money are left a long and specified period, it is quite intelligible that a bank could with tolerable safety allow a comparatively good rate of interest; but that competition should be carried so far as to induce establishments to accept any sums of money that may be deposited by their customers and by the public in general, allowing 7, 8, and even higher rates of interest, on amounts payable on demand or at a very short notice, has long been a matter of surprise, and has at length drawn from the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER the opinion (and all who know Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS look upon him as a particularly cautious and guarded man) that it is a system 'eminently liable to abuse, and containing within it elements of danger, and that to this system many of the evils of the recent crisis may be attributed.'

It requires indeed no great penetration, nor anything beyond an ordinary acquaintance with money matters, to be able to trace generally the workings of the system. Large sums of money are taken in which bear interest from the day of their receipt; as a matter of course they must be employed immediately. These sums, be it remembered, are repayable either on demand or at a very short notice, say three or seven days. At the moment we write the rate of interest allowed is 8 per cent. From the newspapers we learn that loans on the Stock Exchange for short terms on the security of Consols and Exchequer bills can be effected at 5 per cent. only, while good bills are discounted at 8 to 8½ per cent. It is therefore obviously impossible to lend this money (which, be it always remembered, is liable to be demanded at a very short notice, if not at call) for any short time on Government securities without loss; although possibly if it be locked up for a month as much as 9 per cent. may be had. The only other mode of employing the money on improved banking principles is to lend it on mercantile securities, or to discount first-rate bills of exchange having comparatively a short time to run; but whether the margin of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum is sufficient to cover all risks—especially in such times as these—to pay the expenses of a large establishment, and to yield a profit, is a question which probably none but the directors of these banks can answer with any certainty. It is generally understood that the managers of several of these establishments are themselves in doubt whether they have not pushed beyond its legitimate limits a system in the main wholesome and beneficial, and tending to collect together and turn to good account the scattered resources of the country. It is well known that this system has been established for many years in Scotland, but the rate has been from 3 to 3½ per cent., and at this moment does not exceed 4 per cent.; and the banks there hold enormous sums *permanently* at this comparatively low rate. It is quite intelligible how the system answers under such circumstances, especially as these banks issue their own notes, a privilege denied to joint-stock banks in London and within sixty-five miles of the metropolis.

In accordance with the practice prevailing

in Scotland, and with bankers in the provinces, the London and Westminster Bank, which as our readers are aware was the earliest joint-stock bank established in London, announced in their first prospectus that they would introduce the system of allowing interest on deposits, and the rate they offered was 2½ per cent., terms which would yield them at the time a fair profit. Other banks arose, subsequently, producing competition, until the principle was pretty generally established of allowing 1 per cent. below what the Bank charged on first-class bills. It was originally intended never to go beyond 5 per cent., but the same spirit of competition, coupled with a desire to show large figures in their published accounts, broke down that limit, and if we are not misinformed, as much as 9 per cent. has been paid by some of these banks on money borrowed from the public. We believe that now the highest rate paid is 8 per cent., which is 2 per cent. under the Bank rate.

It was with regret that we observed a short time since, in a weekly journal supposed by some persons to derive information and opinions on matters of finance from a Treasury official, an approval of the system of allowing a rate of interest on *money at call* closely approximating to the Bank rate. This approval was deliberately pronounced at a time when it was understood that there was a difference of opinion among the various banks as to the policy of borrowing at so high a rate. It is extremely satisfactory to learn that this approval is in direct opposition to the sounder views of Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS, which we have quoted above.

The enormous power exercised by the joint-stock banks and discount houses, in consequence of their large amount of deposits, has not yet received sufficient attention. Mr. WEGUELIN estimated the amount on deposit with the London joint-stock banks at thirty-five millions; the discount houses must, at the very least, hold fifteen millions more. At the lowest estimate, the amount of these deposits was, in May last, when he gave his evidence, *fifty millions, all repayable upon demand, or at a short notice*. At that time, the total deposits in the Bank of England amounted to sixteen millions only, and against this sixteen millions, the Bank held in hand upwards of five millions in reserve.

It is quite clear that it would not answer to place deposit money in Government securities, on old-fashioned banking principles, since these return only from 3*l. 7s.* to 3*l. 16s.* per cent. Ordinary banking moneys find their way into the Funds, because of their absolute security and convertibility; but money borrowed at high interest must be lent on mercantile securities, repayable at some future date, which securities are in the meantime inconveritible, as it is not the custom of London bankers to re-discount bills. It is also obvious that the money on deposit must all be invested very closely; for it only one-tenth be held ready to meet demands, instead of one-third or one-fourth, as the Bank had against their liabilities, a large portion of profit is consumed. To put it quite plainly: supposing a bank hold a million on deposit, at 8 per cent. The interest is, of course, at the rate of 80,000*l.* a year. If one-tenth were kept to meet daily demands, 900,000*l.* would remain to be employed, and any rate below 8*l. 18s.* per cent. would be a dead loss. It is, therefore, quite impossible that anything like one-tenth can be kept unemployed, and one-third to one-fourth, be it remembered, is the ordinary reserve of the Bank of England.

Mr. WEGUELIN calls attention to this subject in his letter to the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, dated 10th November last year.

"The joint-stock banks of London, judging by their published accounts, have deposits to the amount of thirty millions. Their capital is not more than three millions, and they have on an average thirty-one millions invested in one kind of security or another, leaving only two millions of reserve against all this mass of liabilities. It is impossible to foresee the consequence of the failure of one of these large establishments; and it is a branch of the subject which, in my opinion, more pressingly requires the attention of Parliament than any alteration in the Banking Acts of 1844 and 1845."

When he penned this letter, he little anticipated the trials and difficulties which the following year has produced, and it must be a matter of congratulation with him, as it is with the whole mercantile community, that the London banks have passed through a period of probably unparalleled pressure and distrust. Two large Scotch banks succumbed, besides the Northumberland District Bank, the Liverpool Borough Bank, the Wolverhampton Banking Company, and the deposit house of SANDERSON and Co.; but thanks to the energy and skill displayed in the management of the London banks, the storm has passed over, every banking engagement has been punctually met, and we may fairly hope to see shortly brighter and better days. When the next period of pressure comes round, we doubt very much whether we shall find bankers receiving money at anything like the rates now prevailing; and we trust that future Governors of the Bank of England will not have again to comment on published accounts showing a reserve so little commensurate with the enormous obligations of our banks of deposit.

PRESIDENT BUCHANAN'S MESSAGE.

JAMES BUCHANAN acceded to the Presidency of the United States at a period of unusual difficulty, and since his accession the difficulties have increased. In the brief history of the United States, there have been times when the internal affairs of the Republic have been convulsed by greater political conflicts, and party feeling has at such times been much more violent: with embarrassments of this kind Mr. BUCHANAN has not to contend. They have required all the energy of a WASHINGTON, a JEFFERSON, or a JACKSON; they have reduced weaker men to the most painful of positions. But perhaps at no period have the affairs of the Republic demanded a greater exercise of the qualities which distinguish Mr. BUCHANAN above his predecessors—practical sagacity, unprejudiced desire to act for the best, and cool judgment. When he ascended the presidential chair, the Mormons had already established themselves in Utah, and had laid a way for that rebellion which has since become flagrant; but they had not actually repulsed a party of the republican troops sent to sustain the federal authority in a recognized State. The Nebraska-Kansas difficulty had begun, but it had not been hardened by time, and complicated by the dishonesty as well as the fanaticism, by the ineptitude as well as the rashness, of the subordinate officials. And although the "unparalleled prosperity" of the Union, like that which we have witnessed at home, had paved the way for reaction and crisis, the crisis had not taken place. Without pressing too severely on the character of the gentlemen who immediately preceded Mr. BUCHANAN, we did feel much anxiety at the last election, that the man chosen should be of power and character to restore the dignity of the chief magistracy. We foresaw the embarrassments that would surround him, and desired to have at the head of the Re-

public a man whose clear insight would enable him to discern the path through every intricacy. It is with some satisfaction, then, that we peruse the first message of the new President, and perceive how completely our anticipations have been justified. For even the ordinary English reader can learn from the striking quiet and clearness of its language, the lucidity of its arguments, and the simplicity of its purpose, that the administration of the Republic has fallen to a real statesman.

The first subject which Mr. BUCHANAN handles is that vast one of crisis and currency. In this part of his message he will be found to be completely of accord, in principle at least, with the predominant opinion amongst our statesmen. He agrees with them in thinking the precious metals the most convenient and the safest standard of value; he sees the dangers which attend the spurious extension of credit by the creation of paper money. But a curious omission in the Federal constitution prevents the chief magistrate from enforcing his views on these points, perhaps restrains even Congress, and leaves the Republic, as a whole, at the mercy of its several parts, the States. While the sovereign right of coinage is reserved to the Federal Government, the issue of notes is left unrestrained to the banks of the States—some one thousand four hundred in number; and the wholesome laws that regulate the metallic currency become powerless as soon as they are applied to the paper currency. Some advantage will be gained, even if the President were able to do nothing more than point out the character of these dangers; but he also points out the possibility of a remedy, in the passing of an Act of Congress which would make it 'the irreversible organic law of each bank's existence, that a suspension of specie payments shall produce its civil death.' The instinct of self-preservation would then compel it to perform its duties in such manner as to escape the penalty and preserve life. The only question remaining after this clear exposure of dangers, and indication of a remedy, is, whether Congress is up to the standard of the President in intelligence or patriotism.

The President was the diplomatic medium for carrying on the negotiations respecting Central America—a course of litigation between England and America still unclosed. We have seen it lately represented with singular dishonesty that the American Government puts upon the CLAYTON-BULWER convention a construction designed to keep open for the United States a power of encroachment. The real point in dispute is occasioned by the fact that the English Government has put a construction upon the treaty designed to preserve to this country the right of encroachment, on the main of Honduras and the island of Ruatan with its companion islands. This point we have already made sufficiently clear: the President repeats the leading facts, but avows his willingness to efface all past negotiations and bargaining, and to begin afresh in the amicable hope of closing the dispute.

It is a thousand pities that statesmen either of France or England should permit themselves to make inroads on national independence and on liberty in the name of the independence of races and of human freedom; but such is the fact. The humane LAS CASAS persuaded statesmen to encourage African migration to America, in order to spare the feeble Indian races of the West Indies; and thus he originated the horrors of the slave trade. In order to put a forcible suppression upon the slave trade, our statesmen have driven it into a clandestine form of emigration, and they are at this moment embarrass-

ing the real statesmen of the Republic who would develop the freedom of the Union, and would thus enable it to outgrow its negro encumbrance. In the name of the Black, White is set against White; and the very question of slavery itself is kept in suspense by the disputes about the method of terminating it. The State of Kansas is a case in point. Surrounded on every side, Southern men have endeavoured to preoccupy the new state in order to maintain the balance of voting in the Senate. Instead of trusting to the rapid extension of free settlement, under which the pure Slavery interest in Congress is inevitably doomed, the Northern men have resorted to manœuvres; and at the present moment the Union witnesses a studied attempt to prevent the development of a fresh State, because the contending factions treacherously and disloyally seek to anticipate the free decision of the State. Neither one party possesses the virtue to collect the suffrages of the whole community, but each endeavours to thrust its suffrages upon the others as the decision of the entire State. One convention has confirmed rather more than its predecessors to the established rules of the Republic; it has taken security for submitting the question of slavery or no slavery to all the inhabitants of the territory; and notwithstanding the defects which may be found in the form of procedure—defects which are likely enough to be repeated *ad infinitum* in any future attempts—Mr. BUCHANAN proposes to start from the basis thus laid down; to recognize the State, to develop its State organization, to endue it with responsibility, and to extract from it, by regular means, its own decision upon the great question. This is a practical course; but he is impeded in it by the intrigues and agitations with which English statesmanship has had as much to do as Northern statesmanship. It is plain that if the whole subject were thrown completely open—if the very word 'slavery' ceased to be the standard of contention—the simple march of freedom across the continent would soon hem in the States that are encumbered with a 'peculiar institution'; while the statesmen of the South, who rise above the level of faction to the large statesmanship of CLAY, would assist to reconcile, in political theory as well as in practice, the South to the North. It is in that noble reconciliation that the practical statesmanship of the President renders him a pioneer.

THE EDUCATIONAL SUFFRAGE HOBBY. We shall believe, if things continue in their present fashion, that when men of all persuasions agree on a particular point, their *consensus* is sure to be an absurdity. Two hundred gentlemen, of more or less culture, have signed a document which prays Lord PALMERSTON to establish, upon a plan indicated, an educational suffrage. It is not Tory, a Whig, or a Radical scheme; an official, a legal, or a demagogue scheme; a medical, a clerical, or a scientific scheme, but a doctrinaire concatenation of a number of individuals who, perhaps, never before had a thought in common until, to speak in historical language, they found themselves thus 'pigging together, heads and points, on the same truckle-bed.' CANTERBURY, DURHAM, OXFORD, and LINCOLN are on the roll with CUMMING, MAURICE, and KINGSLEY. Sir WILLIAM WILLIAMS OF KARS concurs, on this occasion, with Dr. LOCOCK, and Doctor CUMMING is of one mind with Mr. F. O. WARD. Mr. BROCK places his card by the side of Dr. LIDDELL's, JOHN RUSKIN and EDWIN CHADWICK consort, Sir CULLING EARDLEY mounts the hobby of CHARLES MERIVALE and ARTHUR HELPS, and Mr.

NEATE, sometime the elect of Oxford, jostles my Lords FORTESCUE and DUNFERMLINE. That Lord CARNARVON should subscribe himself is not marvellous, since many young men living might have been his tutors, but Lord CAMPBELL—*que diable allait-il faire?* We can imagine Dr. LOCOCK fascinated by so pretty an incubation, but in what moment of sublime contempt did Lord BROUGHAM write "BROUGHAM and VAUX" at the foot of this precious memorial? Is this the time, when Canton is to be attacked, to copy our institutions from China? Very probably the principle satisfies LUI-IX, EIL-EUL, WANG, YANG, TCHIN, and others of Wousi, near the city of Tchang-tcheou, in the province of Kiang-nan, but surely the Chief Justice, the two ex-Speakers, the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, the three Bishops, the Tory Peers, and the Dissenting Ministers must have mistaken their longitude. They ask us to create, from ninety thousand educated gentlemen, seventy constituencies, each returning a representative to the House of Commons; and these legislators, representing the clergy, the nonconformist Ministers, the army, the navy, the universities, and the professions exclusively, will form a College of Mandarins in Parliament, capable of wrangling on divinity with Mr. MAURICE, on art with Mr. RUSKIN, on prophecy with Dr. CUMMING, on geology with Sir RODERICK MURCHISON, on military engineering with Sir JOHN BURGOYNE, on muscular religion with Mr. KINGSLEY. We may be sure that the elect electors would send up a good many clever men who would be useful anywhere but in Parliament, and the debates would out-Gladstonize Mr. GLADSTONE in rhetoric, to the bewilderment of the country gentlemen; but what earthly right have the memorialists to suppose that they, or the classes they represent, are better qualified to depute politicians to the House of Commons than the average orders of the community. Give them votes, but not special votes; otherwise, the mercantile marine, the mining interest, railway proprietors, and a hundred other batches of citizens, might fairly claim to be marked off 'the general,' and ask for seventy representatives to mount guard over commerce and industry. We should be getting up caste qualifications in England while we are raving at them in India. We should be taking lessons from Pekin while preparing to blow YEH out of his government. Clearly some among the gentlemen whose signatures appear desire to make terms with the Reform party, and to keep multitudes out of the way. Others, we are firmly persuaded—indeed we know—signed the memorial inconsiderately, and are not ready to abide by the pedantries on which it is based. It is impossible to conceive men of judgment deliberately proposing to establish a set of electoral colleges throughout the three kingdoms, and seventy separate constituencies composed of the clergy, military men, professional graduates, and other experts in literature, science, and art. The ecclesiastical nominees, of course, would predominate, thirty thousand out of the ninety thousand proposed voters being ministers of religion; and that is a point which we commend to the notice of Liberal politicians.

Every one will admit that the persons included in the category set forth by the memorial ought to possess a vote. It may be granted to them on simple terms, by admitting lodgers, with a fixed qualification, to the exercise of the parliamentary suffrage, thus identifying them with the great body of citizens, instead of cutting them off, upon the principles of Japanese heraldry, and creating a sort of spurious oligarchy of Prigs. They dislike being treated as units,

they say. If they are better than units—which many a graduate and member of a learned society is not—they have abundant means of influencing society. They have their intellect, their eloquence, their culture, the respect entertained for them by the less educated classes, the free range of pulpits, platforms, and the press. But whence arose this political rage? The educated orders of the nation, as represented by the memorial, have not habitually associated themselves with political movements, or enlarged their exertions beyond their churches, chapels, lecture-rooms, and clubs. Whenever they do this, power accrues to them, and more they cannot have without doing an injustice to the country, and bringing ridicule upon the Constitution. The Reforms of Parliament and the Executive have been of popular, not of learned origin; for all that the bishops, the army, the universities, and the illuminati have done, we might still have been the subjects of a Georgian rule. Not so, they argue. They have spread knowledge; to them is attributable the explosion of vulgar fallacies; they, the educated, have shown the people the way out of Egyptian darkness. Then they did all this without the educational suffrage, and let them continue to do it, for it is their office, and their influence will not be the less because we refuse to render their importance a monstrosity. The principle of special suffrages could not stop, if once introduced into the constitution. Circle within circle, class within class, we should be the Chinese of the West within a century, unless, as is probable, we repealed our fanciful new law within five years from its enactment, and resolved, in future, to remember what self-government means, and the true nature of a suffrage. It is the citizen, the Englishman, who votes at the election of a Knight or Burgess, not the Master or Bachelor of Arts, the Rector or Vicar, the Brigadier or Captain, the Fellow of a Royal College, a Professor of geology or of prophecy. Carrying to its utmost the principle of a property qualification, it amounts rationally to this: that it is wise to ascertain whether the suffrage is exercised by a man competent to form a political opinion. It is no object of the electoral system to send up a gentleman from the Tower Hamlets, who, being the elect of nine hundred shall rise, when the two elect of nine thousand have spoken, and say, "Sir, as a man of education, I must dissent from the views of those members, the deputies of an illiterate mob." The difficulty is to treat the proposal with seriousness. It is a sickly conceit of dilettantism. It is scarcely an expression of opinion, but a hesitating hint, that certain people would be willing to make an experiment upon the constitution. The constitution, however, is not a dog or a dead body for empirical or anatomical treatment. The reform to come must be a concession of solid power to the nation nationally. We find Mr. COBDEN, Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. MILNER GIBSON, Mr. FOX, Mr. CONINGHAM, Mr. MIAULL, Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. HADFIELD, Mr. ROBERTSON GLADSTONE, Mr. GEORGE WILSON, Mr. TITUS SALT, and others of that order, announced as having signed a memorial for a largely-extended suffrage, the ballot, and the abolition of the property qualification, and we are at no loss to decide which of the two programmes will rouse enthusiasm, and which will be civilly sneered into limbo.

THE STAFF SCHOOL AND PURCHASE SYSTEM.

ACCORDING to all prognostics, HER MAJESTY'S Government are not inclined to enlarge the field of selection for officers; but

they are not unwilling to send the officers of the Army to school. They will not have men of any but the purchasing class, with some exceptions, of which much is made; but as the purchasing class are not at all up to the mark in point of training and attainments, they do not object to send men in commission to school. A minority of three in the Army Purchase Commission has expressed a decided opinion against any change in the present system. They will not even have Lieutenant-Colonels selected for their proved abilities. Selection by merit, they think, would be dangerous! Their principal argument however is, that 'theoretically' the whole system is bad, and it is absurd to make a reform only in the case of Lieutenant-Colonels; so that it is better to make no reform at all. They stand by the regimental system, and say, look to the Staff. There is, indeed, a residue of guilty conscience even in the minority, where they say—

"Whether the adoption of other reforms and ameliorations, admitted on all hands to be necessary in our military system, may in the end place the army on the efficient and satisfactory footing expected by the country, or whether it may still be necessary, at some future time, again to raise the question that has been submitted to our examination, we do not pretend to anticipate."

So even the minority of three—Mr. EDWARD ELICE, General WYNARD, and Sir HENRY BENTINCK, are haunted by that ghost, the Abolition of Purchase; but put it off, they cry. And these three of the Commission are evidently in official quarters the favourites.

But the authors of the report have been too clever not to put forward at least some pretence of reason.

"The principal complaint against our military system," they say, "has been, not of the regiments, but of the manner in which they have been directed, provided for, and handled by the staff, on service and in campaign. Purchase cannot have given grounds for that complaint, for purchase has only influenced regimental, and never staff appointments or promotion."

They beg off one reform on the strength of another which is already taking place. The Royal Military College at Sandhurst has been converted into a Staff College, in which officers are to be trained in the mathematics, the French, German, and Hindostanee languages; fortification and artillery; military drawing and survey; reconnaissance; military art, history, and geography; military administration and legislation; elements of natural philosophy, chemistry, and geology; riding, and even writing! Before the officer enters the college, he must show *some* attainments under several of these heads. Whether in or out of the college, the student need not make himself a proficient in all; but he must study most of them: he must make considerable progress in mathematics; French is essential. In short, he must be master of the military science and art, abstract and applied, ethnographical and historical. Thus our Staff officers will become masters for judging the proficiency of others, will understand the handling of military tools whether living or inert, and will be masters in the business of coercing classes or nations; for such are the duties of armies.

The college of course, should it be effectual, will tend to elevate the standard for officers in the Army generally, and may, perhaps, create a demand for enlarging the field of selection; but the efficiency of the Army is not the only point to be kept in view. There is also a moral consideration. The service of the Army is profitable, honourable, and congenial to the disposition of men besides those who are born in the upper classes; and every man in the country has a right to an equal chance in obtaining a share of the advantages. It may suit royal commissioners to put this political and social point out of view, but it is as essential as the question of military proficiency.

THE JEUFOSSE TRIAL.

THIS curious case, lately tried before a French tribunal, has ceased to have the interest attached to *causes célèbres* in general. There is no doubt about the facts—no mystery about the motives of the accused. Madame JEUFOSSE, annoyed by M. GUILLOT's prowlings about the house—knowing him as a man who had tried to seduce a governess and had made love to her own daughter—charged her servant-man to shoot all trespassers, and by the tone of her instructions evidently meant him to shoot GUILLOT as he would shoot a dog. GUILLOT was shot, and he was left to die like a dog within a few hundred yards of the house. This was terrible retaliation for the profligate impudence of the man, but it lacks one quality of revenge—it was not *'wild justice.'* It was calmly concocted, and persistently urged upon a reluctant menial. GUILLOT certainly contrived to accumulate claims to contempt and hatred. He was a coarse and confident sinner, boasting of shameful conquests, probably a liar, and without even the miserable merit of being a hypocrite. He had not even the grace of being a clandestine lover; he comes more like a burglar than a thief; he intentionally alarms the neighbourhood, and manages to have the JEUFOSSE family seriously compromised. It was certainly hard on Madame. Had he been a secret seducer she might have bushed up the affair, but he was a wolf in wolf's clothing. She did not commit to the two young men, her sons, that mission of avenging honour which Frenchmen so frequently assume. Like the mistress of an ordered household, she charged her servant to do her work, and the murder was done. French justice considers it justifiable homicide, and in this French justice merely reflects French manners.

We must not at once denounce a sentiment so different from our own. The French retain in their social life something of the individual independence of earlier times, when every man was the guardian of his own life and honour. The duel, extinct in England, lingers in France, and has some of its old prestige. The husband who avenges the outraged honour of his bed is always acquitted by French juries. It is curious to contrast the tone of French and English society towards offended and offenders. The lover who quietly attempts the honour of a married woman is in France an interesting scamp, and the illicit lovers are pitied for the misfortune of the lady being married. In England the seducer of a married woman is regarded with general loathing, and for the fallen wife there is no redemption. But let the husband avenge himself, and, strange to say, all is changed. In France, the homicide is made a hero; in England, he is tried at the Old Bailey, and can only hope to be transported. In France, the murdered lover loses all popularity with his life; in England, he obtains the sympathy we always give to the victim. We can only account for it by supposing that Frenchmen love outlaws. Whoever takes the law into his own hands, whether it be the laws of honour, of morality, or of politics, is admired by the French. They have the respect of revolutionists for violations of law; while Englishmen idolize law, and have a prejudice against all 'prisoners at the bar.'

To English law and practice the French verdict in this JEUFOSSE case would be entirely impossible. Suppose MADELEINE SMITH admitted that in an access of fury she poisoned her lover who had threatened to expose her, a French jury would have acquitted her, for her crime would have less guilt than the premeditated murder of GUILLOT by order of Madame JEUFOSSE. Judged by a French verdict, all the Irish agrarian mur-

ders are pardonable, for the murderers could possibly prove much stronger provocation than any received by the Frenchwoman.

But justice, which is truth in action, is most true when it acts according to circumstances, and we must not condemn French law for a decision which merely carries into action the tone of French society. The jury at Evreux took into consideration not only the extenuating circumstances of the immediate case, but the extenuation which the education and habits of every French family suggest.

BRITISH DUTY TO INDIA.

The public should be on its guard against one great danger. It would be a fatal error to allow the Sepoy mutiny to create in the popular mind at home a sentiment of hostility to the Indian races. They are generally guiltless of the English blood that has flowed in so many cities of our Eastern empire. When the insurrection disappears, we have a work of generosity, if not of gratitude, to perform; we have to establish, for the benefit of the people of India, an improved administration. The undertaking branches into three divisions—public works, revenue, and police. These must be separately discussed; at present we would refer to some points connected with the actual condition of the natives, and the possibility of ameliorating it. Able writers have shown that, whatever philanthropy and wisdom may attempt, it is out of the question to convert India into another England, ripe, rich, and brilliant. It may have its glory, but its brightest plains will never afford one glimpse of Kent or Devonshire. When Indian agriculture is at its highest point, the farmer, accustomed to Yorkshire loans or Essex clays, would be disappointed. He sees a thin peasant with a rag about his loins loitering late in June behind a pair of attenuated bullocks, which drag an implement resembling a crooked stick; the ground is a sandy waste, the hot wind has scorched the surface into blisters; but, upon the fall of a shower, the peasant goes to work; he has no guano or bone-dust, no three-horse plough, no patent machinery. Return, however, in November, and the district is one waving mass of grain, each plant nine feet high, and each ear of corn weighing six to eight ounces. Many a dismal sketch of India has been taken from the one phase of this landscape, uncompar'd with the other. We must stipulate, then, for moderation in the rhetoric of Indian reformers. It is not everywhere that the village has its mango grove, its tank, and its shrine; it is not at all seasons that the summer bloom bears its promise of abundance; but it may be at once conceded that a cumbrous and often cruel revenue system has depressed the agricultural classes, whose necessities cry loudly for more benevolent laws. It is highly desirable that a new system of collection should, if practicable, be universally adopted, although in Bengal it involves the delicate task of abolishing the powerful order of Zemindars, the middle men, who pay a fixed assessment, and extort as much, in the shape of surplus, as they can wring out of the ryot by terror, and, in some districts, by torture. The Indian peasant has an undoubted claim to be relieved from this extortionate despotism, heartless and implacable as it is. The case of the non-proprietary classes, in provinces where the Zemindary principle remains at work, is one of peculiar hardship. But where, as in Madras, their thralldom has been abolished, and where merchants, ryots, and officials form the three principal classes, the universal feeling of the poor—in spite of the torture atrocities—is in favour of the British Government, on the ground that its policy has for many years been entirely in their favour. Why not extend the operation of these beneficent reforms? The evils in Madras are traceable rather to the police than to the revenue system; but in the Bengal Presidency both sources of mischief are combined. The Zemindars are extortionate; the peace officers incapable and cruel; the courts inefficient; while the land, never completely surveyed or distributed into registered estates, is made the subject of perpetual vexation. We do not accept as authentic all the individual grievances showered from India by men who have failed in litigation, or who have been persecuted by the Pagoda people, or have been unable to avenge themselves upon some arbitrary Cheristadar; but the conspicuous and indisputable truth is this—that, taking British India generally, the securities of life and property are defective, public works have progressed partially and slowly, industry has not re-

caved ample encouragement, estates are frequently held under tenures so doubtful that enterprise is checked, the demands of the revenue upon the cultivators of the soil are frequently excessive, the cost of administration is inordinate. Here is a broad field for the Reformers; but when dealing with the revenue legislation of India, it is difficult to introduce changes without treading upon some ancient prejudice. Too much government would be no panacea for Indian grievances. So far as the regulation of property is concerned, there is—especially in the North-West—a traditional, unwritten common law dear to the people, well known to them, and almost sufficient for their desires. "I have tried everything," said a zealous young magistrate to FRAZER, the Commissioner of Delhi; "I have fined, imprisoned, and taken security from the people of the Pergannah, but I can't keep them quiet." "Did you ever try letting them alone?" FRAZER asked. The villagers know the history and the value of their land, and appreciate the qualities of the several circles into which it is divided; and it is essential, when proposing practical reformations, to remember that India must be governed, to a great extent, through Indian customs. Laws, in all ages and countries, must harmonize with manners, or they will remain inoperative. On the other hand, as population increases, it becomes the more necessary to define the relations between the proprietary and non-proprietary classes, and to establish tenant rights by law, for nothing else will restrain the Zemindar; and, as far as possible, to destroy the feudal tyranny of the great landlords. British proprietorship, introduced into India, would double the prosperity of the people, wherever the settlers located themselves.

The land-revenue systems of India are three in number—the perpetual settlement, confined to Bengal; the village partnerships, prevailing in the Punjab, Scinde, and some districts of Bombay, and the Ryotwary, including the rest of Bombay, and the whole of Madras. Lord CORNWALLIS, in 1793, instituted the perpetual settlement, fixing the annual rent payable by the owners of the soil; the village partnerships were a formal development of the old village system, and under this law the population has suffered neither from violence, rapacity, nor compression. The rent is fixed for a term of thirty years; property rests on a substantial basis, and the results are highly favourable. Ryotwary implies a direct holding from the Government, the cultivator paying a yearly rent, and renewing, relinquishing, or altering his holding at pleasure. His tenancy is annual, and remains undisturbed by Government so long as he pays at the stipulated rate. Now, of these three systems, that of Bengal is the worst, since it exposes the ryot to be made the slave of the Zemindar. He is taxed, and he must pay; he must live, and the Zemindar permits him to do no more. If this accursed institution rests upon the acquired rights of a class, it is at variance with the human and social rights of forty millions of people. The village system is undoubtedly more equitable and benevolent; but it contains certain important defects, which discourage enterprise and render the interest of the cultivator and proprietor inconsistent with the permanent interests of the country. As for Ryotwary, the practical evil of the working system is that it leaves the cultivator too small a share in the produce of the land, and that the Government, while drawing the tax, has comparatively neglected to promote a more extensive appropriation of the soil to the purposes of industry. The Madras cultivator is poor, spiritless, and unconscious that he inhabits a region over which commerce should perpetually be carried in golden drifts, creating opulence for him and for his Christian masters. It must never be forgotten that the Government gains nothing by the degradation of the ryot; the poverty of Madras impoverishes its administrators. The worst improvidence is a policy of neglect. To neglect, however, must be added jealousy, since, although the restrictions upon the purchase of land have been abolished, the Company's system is one that effectually deters men of sense and foresight from investing their capital in the Residency of Madras. Of course, these remarks must be understood with some limitations. The annuities on the Godavary, Kistnah, and Cauvery are public improvements of immense importance, and the Bellary, Nolapore, and Poonah Railway will open up large districts; but the harbours on that coast are inaccessible and inconvenient, and it must be confessed that, upon the whole, civilization has not fulfilled its duties in Madras or in Bengal. Elsewhere, also, the natives have the strongest claims upon English justice, and, when a new form

of government is established, it will be for public opinion to do that which it has never yet done—superintend the administration of British India.

AN EPITAPH ON COPPOCK.

WE can quite understand that the memory of Mr. JAMES COPPOCK should be respected by his friends. In private life he bore an unimpeached character. But if he is to be set up in even the remotest niche of party history, he must be characterized in accordance with the position he filled as a public man. During the whole of his career as an electoral agent he was sedulously engaged in the trade of parliamentary adulteration. Since the enactment of the Reform Bill, no man ever did so much to bring representative institutions into contempt. We will admit that Mr. COPPOCK was clever, bold, and zealous. But his talent was for intrigue, his ardour was that of a Whig-paid agent, and his daring was, in a political sense, synonymous with an utter contempt of scruple. Enlightened cynics have been engaged in finding apologies for Mr. COPPOCK. We are willing to pass him over in silence; but that does not content the necrologists. They insist upon a funeral oration. Probably, they will not be disappointed. We English of the nineteenth century entertain a noble reverence for those who are wise in their generation. *These be thy gods, O Israel!* Mr. MORRISON amassed four millions and—died, and necrological columns 'improved' the occasion of his decease. JAMES COPPOCK, general dealer in corruption, dies, and he, too, has his columnar testimonials. The miser, to whom bankers bowed, is introduced to posterity as eccentric; the science of illegal interference at elections is paraphrased into devotion and pugnacity. This moral nation, however, is warned—lest unfledged Corrocks should aspire to the agency in Cleveland-row—that the best friends of the deceased could not always approve of the intrepidity with which he fought his antagonists with their own weapons. But, then, he was faithful in cases of compromise; he observed his pledges; that is to say, he was not a liar or a rogue. Other agents were worse than he; he did dirty work with clean hands; his occupation was detestable, but his character stood high; he debased the electors, but never stooped himself; he evaded the highest constitutional laws of the realm, but, for all that, he was a man of honour. Rotteness was his stock-in-trade, but though he loved the business he loathed the principle. We hope that this sort of cant will not impose on the public mind. Many persons well remember how Mr. COPPOCK, warming his legs before a fire, was accustomed to express his disgust of the venality among electors. But to every bargain there are two parties; in this case there are three: the voter sold himself, the Whigs bought him, and Mr. COPPOCK was the go-between. The one person shut his eyes; the other, perhaps, had, morally, no eyes to shut; the third, Mr. COPPOCK, was the man who systematically trafficked in the franchise and reduced bribery to a science. But *felix etiam opportunitate mortis*. He is gone before a Reform Bill came to take away his vocation. He is gone, and there is no rival to the little barber of Shrewsbury—the satellite of W. B. FRAIL of Shrewsbury, we learn, is a great man, and the doors of Tory mansions are opened upon his arrival in town, unreported by the fashionable organs. A FRAIL of larger dimensions and more imposing deportment was Mr. JAMES COPPOCK. Will this position satisfy his admirers? If not, forget him; abolish the calling which he followed, and let his name decently disappear. We would not look upon his like again. If he was audacious, he had his reward; if he was clever, he applied his abilities to a very bad purpose; if he was devoted to his party, so are the servile and the venal. Mr. COPPOCK was not servile. He opened an agency in Cleveland-row, and the Carlton might probably have had him had he not been previously engaged.

Fortunate for him was the opportunity of death. The time is coming in which Copcockism will be not only illegal, but impossible. So they say. We bury a man and the world writes an epitaph of praise upon the worldly-wise. Shall we be stigmatized as purists if we beg to be allowed to add:—May the system which made him what he was be abolished for ever!

WEST INDIAN POLITICS.

OUR West Indian letters inform us that the remarks we ventured to put forward (on the 31st of October) on the subject of 'Yellow Fever at St. Thomas,' and on the obvious means of avoiding it

by transferring the dépôt from the Danish settlement to our own Virgin Islands, have been very favourably received by our fellow-subjects in those parts, and that the suggestions are likely to be pressed upon the attention of the Colonial Office. We are reminded, indeed, by one of our correspondents, that the expression 'hundreds of bays,' applied to the Virgin Islands, has a certain taint of rhetorical licence, and we are ready to confess that it was a colloquial exaggeration which had better been avoided in an argument relying for its strength on geographical and even topographical accuracy of statement.

In spite, however, of this pardonable flaw in the form, the substance of our proposition remains unaltered, and it is confirmed by every letter we receive on the subject. It is, we believe, the positive opinion of nautical men of the widest experience, that except perhaps the harbours, or rather inland seas, of Rio Janeiro and Sydney, the Virgin Gorda Sound is the finest in the world; not excepting even Trincomalee, so highly prized by NELSON.

At Prickly Pear Island (which forms the north side of the Sound) there is a place for a coal dépôt, with eight or nine fathoms water within a few yards of the shore, and the entrance to the harbour merely requires the lights, which are universally found in such places; two buoys would form a sufficient fair-way guide in the daytime.

We cannot doubt that the authorities at the Colonial Office will take these advantages in favour of the Virgin Islands into serious consideration. It is clearly not only not necessary to leave the dépôt at St. Thomas's, but a danger and a loss in every respect, and a needless injustice to our own dependency into the bargain.

Whilst we are referring to our West Indian letters, we may touch for a moment on the Sepoy immigration scheme, which originated in Bristol or Liverpool some months ago, and was alluded to recently in the House of Commons. "It would be a good measure" (writes one of our correspondents, entitled to speak with authority) "if Government would take care of them for us; but to turn mutinous soldiers adrift where there are neither police, arms, nor troops, would of course be an infliction." The growth of cotton in our West India Islands is beginning to excite much attention. The one thing needful is *labour*. Alluding to the experiments initiated by the President of the Virgin Islands, a correspondent estimates the extent of good cotton land in that dependency alone as from 30,000 to 40,000 acres. Assuming that every acre properly tilled should turn out at least one and a half or two bales annually, our estimate (he writes) of 20,000 bales might be realized within twelve months from the date of sufficient labour being made available. The cotton-plant gives two or three pickings annually there, and the second or third year's growth often proves more productive than the first. It has been found possible to have Sea Island cotton ready for picking within four months from sowing time.

We may well be anxious for the result of these experiments, for upon them will turn, in great measure, the future fate of our West Indian possessions. Sugar will give place to cotton as soon as our ability to grow Sea Island cotton in perfection shall have been established, and capital will not hesitate to follow the announcement of success.

We dare say our intelligent readers, who are enjoying the good things of Christmas, will readily appreciate the importance of these West Indian questions.

Open Council.

[ON THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The sarcastic remarks on the late debate at the India House, contained in your political summary, would probably have been spared, had you not been misled by a very suspicious omission in the *Times* report. The chairman is there made to remind the proprietors that they were voting away their own money. He said, however, quite the reverse. These are his very words as taken down at the time by a short-hand reporter. "It should be remembered that it is not our own money that we are voting away. The Directors are as well disposed to be generous as this Court of Proprietors can be; but there must be a limit to these things."

Trusting to your sense of justice for the correction of this accidental error, I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
SCRUTATOR.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

WONDERFUL, for wit, humour, fancy, grace, fun, and picturesque beauty, is *Punch's Almanack* for 1858. We allude more especially to LEECH's illustrations, for, though the letter-press of this delightful annual is always sparkling and merry, the pictures are undoubtedly the main attractions. The publication this year is even more than ordinarily good, and unfolds, page after page, some fresh triumph of comic art. Mr. LEECH has a singular faculty for seizing the happiest and most graceful phases of life, at the same time that his humour is of the most affluent and abundant kind. The caricaturist has hitherto revelled in the hideous, the vulgar, and the morbid: Mr. LEECH, on the contrary, flings a sunshine of beauty over his drawings, but beauty of a real, recognizable kind, not vapid idealism. His women, his children, his animals, his bits of landscape and sea-scape, are exquisite in their truth and gracefulness. The large centre illustration, 'The Mermaids' Haunt,' in the *Almanack* just issued, is full of this feeling; and so are many of the smaller cuts. Even when he touches poverty and squalor (not that he does so on this occasion), he elevates them into something poetical by the warmth of genius and of sympathy. And then how full of fun and dramatic truth of character are his little bits of letter-press beneath the cuts! In short, LEECH is nothing less than a benefactor in this cold northern land; and, thanks to him in particular, *Punch's Almanack* for 1858 will not merely make us merry at Christmas, but will leave a golden memory behind it through the coming year.

Punch's Pocket-Book, of course, comes with the holly, and with its store of good things is as pleasant as Christmas itself.

A new fortnightly European illustrated Art-Review of a very ambitious kind is announced for the beginning of the year in Paris. The title will be *Gazette des Beaux Arts, Courrier Européen de l'Art et de la Curiosité*, and the chief editorship is entrusted to M. CHARLES BLANC, sometime Director of the Fine Arts, whose letters on the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition we mentioned a week or two since. The distinguishing characteristic of the new *Gazette des Beaux Arts* will be a special Art correspondence from all parts of Europe. Under the direction of M. CHARLES BLANC, whose relations in the European world of art are, from his previous official position, widespread and influential, such a correspondence will doubtless prove of high value and authority. The title implies that every branch of pictorial, plastic, and decorative art will be represented in the pages of the Review, and it is no slight guarantee of success that it will be conducted by a critic of known judgment and experience, with so fine a sympathy for what is earnest, and so fine a sense of what is true in Art, as M. CHARLES BLANC, who enjoys the distinction of being not only a subtle critic, but an admirable writer. In a language singularly pure and elegant, he expresses with discrimination what he feels with enthusiasm. The illustrations are promised to be in the highest style of execution, and we are told that capital is not wanting to ensure the success of the publication.

There is one of M. CHARLES BLANC's letters on the Art Treasures Exhibition, where he is commenting upon the fallacy of the pre-Raphaelite theory pushed to extravagance, which will give our readers a good idea of the critic and the writer. Here it is:—

Chacun s'efforce d'être naïf, mais comme il est difficile de le devenir, au lieu d'être ingénus, ils sont indiscrets. Enfants terribles de l'art, ils ne savent ni rien sacrifier ni rien taire. De même que l'œil inexorable de l'instrument photographique nous apporte des détails éloignés que nous ne lui demandions pas, de même le peintre anglais, croyant toute vérité bonne à dire, nous choque par mille inconvénients, met toute chose sur le même plan, devient faux à force d'être vrai, et, sous prétexte qu'il a pu les voir dans la nature, il offense notre pudeur par tous les scandales l'écarlate et de l'outremer. Ainsi l'école anglaise témoigne elle-même contre son principe en nous faisant voir d'une manière délavante que le peintre ne doit pas être le perroquet de la nature, mais son truchement, et que si l'idéal peut conduire au factice et au poncif, le réalisme mène droit à la photographie, c'est-à-dire à la négation même de l'art.

We need not suggest that this criticism applies only to the weaker brothers of the pre-Raphaelite school. Of the painter of the 'Huguenot,' and the 'Order of Release,' it may truly be said (taking into account the *aliquando dormitat* of all great artists and poets alike) that in the marvellous career of his still early manhood he has already in his own person traversed, so to speak, the entire field of the struggles and the victories of Art. If he began as a contemporary of MASACCIO, he has gone on to prove himself the legitimate successor of RAPHAEL and LEONARDO. Whatever may be the fallacy of the theory which the feeble men are unable to shake off, it is not to be denied that the influence and example of the school have left their mark upon English art in that thoroughness of workmanship, and that devoted, reverential, self-denying conscientiousness of feeling which are becoming every day more and more the characteristics of the English school, although it is but a school of *genie*, and has few historical commissions from the State.

M. LOUIS VIARDOT, well known by his excellent History of the Arabs and Moors in Spain and his artistic Guides, has just published a very curious little volume, entitled, *Les Jésuites jugés par les Rois, les Évêques et le Pape, Nouvelle Histoire de l'Extinction de l'Ordre, écrite sur les Documents Originaux*.

It consists chiefly of extracts from an elaborate "History of the Reign of Charles III. in Spain" by Don ANTONIO FERRER DEL RIO, but forms a complete and interesting narrative in itself. When we consider the immense ramifications, the ingenuity, the subtlety, nay, the genius and the perseverance of the Jesuits, it is not surprising that they have until now succeeded in concealing the truth as to the most remarkable fact in their career. We should rather be astonished that since they 'came up from underground' they have not attempted to destroy, or rather to falsify, the documents contained in the Archives of Simancas, which the Spanish historian has consulted with so much fruit. M. FERRER DEL RIO, it should be observed, is a fervent Catholic and a most loyal subject. He enumerates among the crimes of the Jesuits their resistance to lawful authority and their admission of Turks into heaven as well as Catholics. As M. VIARDOT remarks, such an objector speaks with more authority to true believers than to sceptics. The tendency of his revelations is to destroy a great many popular anecdotes, chiefly accredited by the Jesuits, and to give to the extinction of the Order its true dignity and importance. We cannot say that we admire his style of composition, and for our pleasure would have rather seen the materials melted into shape by M. VIARDOT himself; but the solemn testimony of Don ANTONIO FERRER DEL RIO, so pious and so much in earnest, will probably have more weight with the public.

M. LOUIS BLANC's appeal against the Marquis of NORMANDY will probably excite more attention than the work of the noble Gossip. It will not be a mere refutation, but a disclosure of history as illustrated by the Year of Revolution. M. LOUIS BLANC tells of his visit to the prisoner of Ham in '41, and of his relations with that distinguished foreigner in London. After the events of June, 1848, M. LOUIS BLANC, proscribed and chased out of France stayed a short time at an hotel in Jermyn-street. The very first visit of condolence from his friends was one from the present Emperor of the French, who burst into the room—to say he walked would faintly describe his generous fervour—and, embracing the expatriated member of the Provisional Government, exclaimed, "Ah, les misérables! ils vous ont prescrit!" M. LOUIS BLANC may be expected to publish, for the first time, a variety of similar reminiscences.

FAIRY TALES.

Four-and-Twenty Fairy Tales, selected from those of Perrault, and other Popular Writers. Translated by J. R. Planché. With Illustrations by Godwin, Corbould, and Harvey. Routledge and Co.

If there ever was a writer whom the whole world of English juvenility ought to deify, and at whose shrine they should offer yearly sacrifices of cakes and oranges, it is Mr. Planché. Not content (so inappreciable is his benevolence to the young-eyed generation) with delighting crowds of happy holiday-makers at Christmas and Easter by his exquisite extravaganzas, which sparkle with airy wit, exhaustless animal spirits, and buoyant fancy, he has of late put his claims to the gratitude of the young into more enduring forms, by translating those charming stories which have been the origin of his chief dramatic successes. Between two and three years ago, he gave us a collection of Madame d'Aulnoy's fairy legends; and he now issues a companion volume, containing the analogous creations of Perrault, the Countess de Murat, Mademoiselle de la Force, Mademoiselle de Lubert, Madame de Villeneuve, the Count de Caylus, &c. In these volumes, a rich body of fairy fiction is presented to the English public, by one whom nature and art seem to have specially endowed for this delicate and radiant filigree-work. Mr. Planché is deeply read in old French literature; he is a master of his own native English; he has an intense sympathy with the world of enchantment, and particularly with that province which combines the wonders of magic with the formal etiquette of courts; he has qualities of his own, kindred to those which he finds in the original stories; and the bright stream of French blood running in his veins, from the Protestant ancestor who fled into England about the time when this species of literature was first developing itself in Paris, has probably quickened and nourished the original tendency of his mind. In connexion with these fictions, therefore, we have in Mr. Planché emphatically the right man in the right place.

Madame d'Aulnoy was one of the earliest, and perhaps the best, of these novelists—for such they may be called; but Perrault and the other authors whose fictions have contributed to the work now before us were worthy labourers in the same field, and some of their tales have acquired a European reputation. 'Blue Beard,' for instance, is the work of Perrault. This azure-chinned Sepoy appears to have some connexion with a real person—one Gilles de Laval, Seigneur de Raiz, created Maréchal de France in 1429. Mr. Planché, who appends some interesting notes to his volume, gives a few details of this Chevalier's life. Laval made himself famous by his defence of Orleans against the English; yet he was a consummate knave, notwithstanding, and became so odious in Brittany that he was tried, found guilty, hanged, and burnt. But, inasmuch as he had exhibited some signs of repentance at the last (extorted from him, probably, by fear), his body was taken out of the flames, and buried in the church of the Carmelites at Nantes. He was a great libertine, and so extravagant that he never travelled without being accompanied by a great retinue of cooks, musicians, and dancers of both sexes, by packs of hounds, and two hundred saddle horses. His name is a bugbear in Brittany to this day. It was Coleman the Younger, in his play on the subject, who first turned Blue Beard into a Turk.

Among the other tales in this volume known of old to the nursery and play-room are 'The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood,' 'Puss in Boots,' 'Cinderella,' 'Riquet with the Tuft,' and 'Beauty and the Beast.' What memories and visions cling to those names! How we used to withdraw ourselves, with an abstraction now hardly possible, into those rich and golden lands, those true El Dorados, those veritable Fortunate Islands and more

than real Elysian Fields, in the vanished days when life itself was heroic, and the world hardly less a fairy domain than the gorgeous realms of the story-teller! But in those times we had not such a trustworthy guide as Mr. Planché. Our Cinderellas were, so to speak, disguised with sundry cosmetics, the work of translators who took upon themselves to edit, as well as to render one language into another. Our Beauties were shorn of their fair proportions; our Beasts were not allowed to present themselves in the fulness of their beasthood. Mr. Planché has set this matter right; and the young ones, who religiously hold that a fairy tale cannot be too long, will thank him. But his volume also possesses a literary value for older readers. It contains the writings of persons whose lives spread over about a century, and therefore presents a chronological view of the progress of a very interesting species of romance-writing from its first fresh budding to its somewhat overwrought and faded decline. Mr. Planché observes in his Preface:—

The reader will by this arrangement observe, in a clearer way than probably he has yet had an opportunity of doing, the rise, progress, and decline of the genuine Fairy Tale—so thoroughly French in its origin, so specially connected with the age of that ‘Grand Monarque’ whose reign presents us, in the graphic pages of St. Simon and Dangeau, with innumerable pictures of manners and customs, dresses and entertainments, the singularity, magnificence, profusion, and extent of which scarcely require the fancy of a D’Aulnoy to render fabulous. In my introduction to the tales of that ‘lively and ingenious lady,’ I have already shown the progress of the popularity of this class of composition; but in the present volume it will be seen how, in the course of little more than half a century, the Fairy Tale, from a fresh, sparkling, simple, yet arch version of a legend as old as the monuments of that Celtic race by whom they were introduced into Gaul, became first elaborated into a novel, comprising an ingenious plot, with an amusing exaggeration of the manners of the period; next, inflated into a preposterous and purposeless caricature of its own peculiarities; and finally, denuded of its sportive fancy, its latent humour, and its gorgeous extravagance, subsided into the dull, common-place moral story, which, taking less hold of the youthful imagination, was, however laudable in its intention, a very ineffective substitute for the merry monitors it vainly endeavoured to supersede. Too much like a lesson for the child, it was too childish for the man.

Still, notwithstanding their varieties, there is, we think, a marked tone of courtliness, derived from the time of Louis XIV, running through all these fictions. They are the productions of writers who sought to amuse ‘the polite circles,’ and are singular specimens of that fashion which long prevailed, not only in France, where it originated, but almost all over Europe, of combining the extreme of court artificiality with a certain assumed simplicity and gentlemanly idealism. The incidents are those of the most wild and marvellous enchantment; the manners, the style of speech, the turn of thought, the whole tone and complexion of the stories, are those of a French court. In the same way that in their architecture the satellites of the Grand Monarque brought back the elements of the Greek and Roman styles combined with modern prettinesses, and in their poetry introduced the gods and goddesses of antiquity into modish drawing-rooms among bewigged gentlemen and hooped ladies—in the same way that in their porcelain they dressed shepherds and shepherdesses in the costliest costumes of the palace—so, in these fairy fictions, they and their successors held the winged and volatile loveliness of the lands of enchantment within the circle of Versailles. Never were supernatural beings so well-bred as these; never were benignant fays so instructed in the rules of politesse. They show the fashions of the time as well as if they were real folk; they bring with them the perfumed airs of the boudoir. You see at a glance—you hear in every word they utter—where those gallant young princes and adorable princesses learnt their incomparable address. The scent of the pounce-box is over all. Yet this very absurdity forms part of the gay fascination of the whole. The most impressive and truly poetical elements of the fairy world are undoubtedly not reached; but a brilliant and fantastic rainbow is thrown over the page, delighting us partly by its fanciful beauty, partly by the strange glimpses it gives of a vanished phase of human nature. Who does not admire the quaint, bright figures of the Dresden china pastorals, where over-civilized ladies and gentlemen are seen making desperate, almost pathetic, efforts to be natural and simple? Who does not perceive a strange charm in those delicate little poems of Prior—and, to a certain extent, of Waller too—in which Venus and the Loves flutter in the scented air of the drawing-room, and speak the language of repartee and the thoughts of modern life? Analogous to the pleasure we take in those productions is the delight given by these French tales of Faery. When Madame Vestris introduced into one of Mr. Planché’s extravaganzas a dance of shepherds and shepherdesses dressed in the costume of last century, yet appearing in the midst of fairyland, and when, last year at the Olympic, in the same writer’s latest burlesque, a similar scene was presented, the real central principle of these novelties was hit.

Mr. Planché is the veritable king of this sparkling world; and we heartily recommend his volume as one of the pleasantest of Christmas books.

BERANGER’S BIOGRAPHY.

Ma Biographie, ouvrage posthume de P. J. Béranger. Paris, 1857. Perrotin. M. PERROTIN did wisely in reserving the publication of this volume until after the appearance of the *Dernières Chansons*—which were decidedly a check for the reputation of their author. In the remarks we recently made on those songs, as lenient as the struggle of justice with affection would allow, it would appear literary opinion in France entirely concurs. The volume sells, however—and would sell even if it were not patronized by advertising tailors who give it as a prize to their customers; and the crowd reads and admires, partly from want of critical power, but chiefly because of its favourable disposition towards the poet.

For Béranger is certainly the most popular and most national poet of France. He began as a *chansonnier*—which means far less than our ‘songster’—at a time when Rouget de L’Isle disdained that appellation and insisted on having the ‘Marseillaise’ styled an Ode. For a long while the humility of his pretensions prevented him from obtaining real literary recognition. “It was by the English,” as he says himself, “that I was first given the title of poet—in the *Edinburgh Review*.” His productions were popular, however, long before his real merit was acknowledged. By the time that power thought of persecuting him he was identified with the sympathies of

all France. Since that, despite some foolish protests from the priest-party, his fame has widened and deepened—so much that he himself seemed something startled, and was often inclined to protest against so universal and enthusiastic a verdict.

The truth is, that Béranger was not only a true poet, but a true man. This ‘Biographie’ shows it. Of its kind ‘tis a model of excellence. At first its brevity, the absence of detail, especially of scandalous detail, the careful avoidance of any attempt to startle the reader by ‘revelations’—which usually, it is true, startle no one—produce a feeling of disappointment. Is this all, we are inclined to ask, that a man of fourscore has to tell the world about his career, at a time when far inferior men, even during their lifetime, think it necessary to blot oceans of paper with records, not only of the most indifferent actions of their lives, but even of the first development of their physical passions? Two hundred and fifty-seven pages only! Well, it is enough. This example of modest brevity was worth giving, even at the sacrifice of many narratives and anecdotes which would scarcely have increased our knowledge of the author.

We have him here from top to toe—sketched, it is true, by himself in outline, like Charlet’s full-length portrait in the title-page—and as it were in miniature, but sufficiently complete to leave a lasting impression. It were to be wished that every eminent writer who wins the applause and love of the public would take care to leave behind him a narrative so full and so reserved. Béranger does not write the history of his times nor of his contemporaries. He writes a history of himself, his struggles with fortune, his private adventures, the development of his mind, the origin of his works, the manner of their success, the friendships they brought him and the persecutions; and the reasons and form of his retirement from the literary contest. “The reflections,” he observes, with charming appreciative power, but too great modesty, “which will mingle with my narrative, will savour of the existence I have led near the ground. Let great men have their great recitals! This is nothing but the story of a maker of songs.”

No matter; the story is most interesting. We would abridge it, if it were possible to abridge, an epitome. The reader, though satisfied not to know more than Béranger chooses to tell, will certainly not be satisfied to know less. We shall merely remind him, therefore, that Béranger was the grandson of a tailor, whose daughter married a grocer’s book-keeper, who pretended to be of an aristocratic family; that the first books he heard read, before he could read himself, were the novels of Prévost and the works of Voltaire and Raynal; that he was early deserted by his father, and grew up in the midst of a precarious dependence on various relatives—on the old tailor, for example, and his aunt, who lived at Péronne. The latter sheltered him until the verge of manhood, instilling Jacobinism and piety—a curious mixture—into his mind; but above all, sentiments of patriotism and violent prejudices, not wonderful at that time of invasion, against ‘the foreigner.’ All Béranger’s theories, if he can be said to have had any theories, were formed during his residence in Picardy. It was there he learned to love the Republic, whilst deplored its excesses; but it was there also he learned to substitute sometimes for true liberality a sort of patriotism which is very common in France, and which is compounded of a feeling of military honour and a love for the soil, that is peculiarly characteristic of the peasant and the savage.

As a boy at Péronne, Béranger was a member of a sort of school-club, delighted to sing Republican songs, and, showing early a talent for composition, was charged on great occasions with the task of drawing up addresses to the Convention and Maximilian Robespierre. Soon afterwards he entered a printing establishment, but made little progress in the art. Here, however, he learned something of the principles of versification, and began to develop a taste for poetry which he had long before exhibited. When he was twelve years of age, he used to draw two parallel down a piece of paper, fill them up with rhymed lines, and fancy he was making verses, as regular as those of Racine!

When Béranger was fifteen, in 1795, his father fetched him away from Péronne and took him to Paris, where he wanted his assistance in certain banking operations in which he was engaged. Here he came in contact with various Royalist conspirators—for Béranger the elder, as in duty bound by his supposed noble extraction, was a staunch Legitimist; but he carefully avoided the contagion of example. His picture of those fine gentlemen, who when they wanted money sometimes helped his father at his toilette, is amusing, and bears every mark of truth. One of them believed that the rightful heir to the throne was a M. de Vernon, who professed to be descended from the Man with the Iron Mask; and was much disappointed that Bonaparte did not make himself the Monk of this pretender. In 1798 Béranger’s bank failed, and the son bade adieu to financial operations for ever.

For some time he was poor. This is the period to which he refers so often with regret, more literary than poignant, when he knew the Lisettes and the Roses whom he has immortalized. But he says nothing of them; and, though our curiosity may be disappointed, we must commend his silence. What could he have told us that would not have dimmed or stained the picture he has left us elsewhere? “Though ugly and weakly in appearance, I had never occasion to spend money.” Enough; his poverty and cheerfulness softened hearts which were otherwise adamant, except to the generous. We know what sort of *liaisons* he means; and, if there could be any doubt, that jarring line in ‘Dans un grenier,’ would inform us—

J’ai su depuis qui payait sa toilette.

Béranger had no sentimental episode to record. With the exception of some kind allusions to the ‘friendly hand’ that mended his shirts, when he had only three, he has nothing more to say about his early loves than this:—

There was, nevertheless, something pleasant in my poverty. I inhabited a mansard on the sixth story, looking on the Boulevard St. Martin. What a beautiful view I enjoyed! How I loved, in the evening, to gaze over the immense city, when with the noises that ceaselessly arise from it was mingled the clamour of some great storm! I had installed myself in this garret with inexpressible satisfaction, without money, without certainty as to the future, but happy to be at last delivered from all those troublesome affairs which, since my return to Paris, had constantly offended my sentiments and my tastes. To live alone and make verses as I pleased

seemed to me true felicity. Besides, my budding wisdom was not of the kind that banishes all kinds of enjoyment; far from it. Perhaps I have never perfectly known what our romancers, ancient and modern, call love; for I have always regarded woman not as a spouse or as a mistress, that is to say, as is too often the case, as a slave or a tyrant, but as a friend whom God has given us. The tenderness full of esteem which that sex inspired me with from my very youth has never ceased to be the source to me of the sweetest consolation. I triumphed over a disposition to melancholy, the fits of which became less and less frequent, thanks to women and poetry: I should say, thanks to women; for poetry came to me from them.

The 'friendly hand' above alluded to belonged to Mademoiselle Judith, who, when the former lovers were above sixty years of age, came to live as housekeeper with Béranger, a fact that gave rise to the ridiculous report that he had married his servant. But we have no reason to contradict the poet when he implies that all his licentious songs were purely imaginative in their source. His *Lisette*, it has been well remarked, was nothing but the *Lisette* of the eighteenth century described in warmer and truer colours—the mistress of all young men of strong rather than delicate passions, who have not yet found their real mate. Perhaps we should believe that the songs of Béranger, in which he describes the free life of twenty, gathering honey from the flowers nearest the wayside, instead of representing in any way a real period of his own existence, have since created a yearning for such a state in the generation which learned to sing them, and have led to attempts at realization. The *Musettes* and *Mimis* of the Quartier Latin are imitations, sometimes against their will, of the kind beauties of Béranger—trained by students who are determined to be poetical in debauchery.

When we have spoken of the amorous poetry of Béranger we have spoken of nearly half the man. Nearly all the remainder was political. The 'Biographie' will enable the reader to follow the slow development of this complete talent, which did not exhibit its real power until 1813. Then the appearance of the 'Sénateur,' the 'Petit Homme Gris,' the 'Gueux,' and the 'Roi d'Yvetot' brought Béranger rapidly into notice. The last song was circulated in manuscript, and was intended as an attack on the Imperial government. It attracted the attention of the police; but the Emperor, although his attention was formally directed to it, did not think proper to act against the author. We may here mention that Béranger, writing in 1840, always speaks with mighty respect of the Corsican myth—although with certain mild reservations in favour of republicanism. He looked upon him as the incarnation of the national spirit, and, indeed, did so much to perpetuate the superstitious reverence of the people for his name that he could scarcely with decency retract. He has a very good passage, however, against the plagiarism of antiquity, introduced by the Republic, but hugely exaggerated by the Emperor. Héroult de Sechelles was checked in endeavouring to draw up a constitution for France because he could not get a complete copy of the *Laws of Minos*.

My admiration for Bonaparte (says Béranger) did not prevent me from often treating him as a college-man. Paoli had seen through this. He was, in many respects, one of Plutarch's heroes, and he will, therefore, remain, I hope, *the last and perhaps the greatest man of the old world*, which he was so fond of reconstituting—after his own fashion, however. Alas! nothing is so unlucky as to struggle with a new world. Napoleon succumbed in the attempt. In 1815 he wrote to the Regent of England that he came, like Themistocles, to sit down at the British hearth! In 1841 we treated Napoleon according to his own taste. Although it was publicly known that his remains were in a state of miraculous preservation, the journals and the authorities would persist in talking of 'the ashes of Napoleon'; and soldiers hearing this expression often repeated, exclaimed, "Voyez, ces gredins d'Anglais l'avaient brûlé!"

But the abundance of topics in this pregnant little volume is carrying us away. We have not quoted any of the charming narratives, anecdotes, and observations we have marked as specimens of its manner; we must forego the pleasure. The most important portion is the account of the war carried on by Béranger in the name of the Liberal party, against the series of corrupt ministers which ended with Polignac, against the bigoted system of government under Louis XVIII. and Charles X., and against the institution of Monarchy itself. In order to crown this war by victory it was found or thought necessary to lean on the unwholesome prejudices of the ignorant masses in favour of the imperial régime, which had been found an intolerable burden whilst it existed. Hence the constant glorification of Napoleon, the man who had knocked so many kings about the head, and 'made their chivalry to skip.' The French may be very 'democratic'—if we use that word in the sense in which it is used by the *Moniteur*—but they have always shunned the labour of giving the will of the people an organization. The man who cuts the heads off the tallest poppies is their chosen tribune. You will often hear them say that if they do not appreciate liberty they understand equality. This is the saddest confession a nation can make. The mission of Béranger was to give it poetical form. In a thousand different ways he laboured, and with success, to destroy all respect for artificial distinctions, for kings, ministers, senators, for acquired positions of all kinds. The simple poet, in his Protestant minister's costume, without any very distinct consciousness of what he was doing, made himself the standard of the citizen; and because he was good, honest, temperate, generous, and tender-hearted, believed that these qualities were the result of his social insignificance. His beau ideal was a nation composed of such individualities. He would have peopled France with philosophers such as himself. This was his Utopia. But he had no idea of institutions likely to bring about such a result. Vague aspirations for a republic only served to obscure his reason. He worshipped, it must be admitted, the power which would have permitted him, and which he believed would have permitted others, to live that decent quiet life, apart from public affairs, which appeared so charming to him. It would be harsh to apply to so good a man the accusation which has been directed with reason against one kind of republicanism in France, that its essence is envy; but it is certain that he shared the ignorance which has led our neighbours to their catastrophe, and laboured to overthrow without much caring what was to be rebuilt. He confounded the form of faith with essentials; and, from hatred of bigotry and puritanism, preached a morality which, out of Arcadia, would bring society to dissolution in twenty-four hours.

But all this was more the fault of his time than his own. He invented nothing. He only expressed what was in the minds and hearts of all. In

this, too, he was a genuine poet. Neither Homer, nor Dante, nor Milton was more in contact with the life of his time, nor more accurately repeated its pulsations than Béranger. Read fifty of his best songs: they are a history in diminutive chapters of the intellectual movement of France in that age. They could not have been written before by any other; and we know that Béranger himself could not write such things again. For twenty years, after a youth of humble privation, he tood forth as the epitome of all that was liberal, all that was hopeful, all that was noble, but also of all that was passionate and prejudiced in France. His power of identification with contemporary feeling was so great, too, that, whilst perfectly representing the tone of the middle classes, he gave voice at the same time to the unknown aspirations of the masses. This was the chief secret of his enduring popularity. No other man in France has ever addressed so wide a public. His songs have been sung on the same night in brilliant salons and beneath the ragged thatch which protects barbarians who have never heard of any other rhymester. We say nothing of the classical purity of his language. It is not only pure according to French rule, but exquisitely correct even to foreign appreciation. In almost all cases it is nature itself. Wit, tenderness, humour, passion—all find their appropriate expression. France owes a debt to the man who first dared to give the title of poet to Béranger; for the world, uninstructed in academical criticism, might perhaps have gone on whispering to itself that that country had no genuine poet whatever to produce.

LOUIS THE FOURTEENTH AND THE REGENT.

The Memoirs of the Duke of St. Simon, on the Reign of Louis XIV. and the Regency.
Abridged from the French. By Bayle St. John. Vols. III. and IV.

Chapman and Hall.

THESE volumes contain the perfect picture of a court, in the days when courtiers wore silk and plumes, and decorated boots. Mr. St. John's first series brought the abridgment down to the death of Monsieur, and the grotesque drama enacted at the side of his coffin. The second, concluding the *Memoirs*, closes with the funeral of the Duke of Orleans. Few books have ever disclosed so rich a store of anecdote, or so many graphic glimpses of the private life of kings, queens, and their confidants. St. Simon was merciless in his confessions, and though excessively egotistic, described his own follies with unconscious elaboration. That such a narrative should so long have been buried in the immensity of the French original, is matter of surprise. In its English dress, at least, it is a rare Scandalous Chronicle, without an offensive passage, and could more be said to tempt the fastidious general reader? St. Simon was a courtier in every sense of the word, and attached a majesty almost regal to the title of Duke. The happiest moment of his life was that in which he found himself seated with covered head upon a raised bench, in presence of the proud third estate, which knelt, uncovered, before him. That debt has since been repaid, and a good many small St. Simons live to regret the insolence of which these *Memoirs* furnish so many curious illustrations. No other men, however, can possibly regret the age of Louis XIV., or the Regency, except, perhaps, the falconers of Compiegne, secretly ashamed of wearing sylvan green and gold, in the waning half of the nineteenth century, and in the retinue of an Emperor who came of an ancestor in a grey coat and plain cocked hat, and whose sports were Austerlitz and Arcola. Very few chapters of St. Simon's record pass without an allusion to some case of poisoning or profligacy committed within palace precincts, and reverentially hushed up by the lackeys. The Dauphin's heart was melted in his body by some infusion of terrible potency; when the Dauphine died, the word 'murder' was audibly whispered, and men looked at a prince of the blood as though he had been seen to administer the draught. However free Louis XIV. himself was from these extreme crimes, there can be no question but that his character was gross and despicable. St. Simon's portrait of him has been recognized as just by writers of all parties, who have consulted contemporary witnesses. This, we think, is one great virtue of the book. It rubs the varnish off a reputation which in England has been falsely coloured by a long dynasty of compilers. In the wonderful review of his manners supplied by St. Simon, in Mr. St. John's third volume, his habit of provoking others to gluttony occupies the most prominent position, next his overwhelming, absorbing, inconceivable selfishness. When he travelled, his carriage was always full of women, meat, pastry, and fruit, and scarcely a mile passed without his asking some one to eat, which the ladies were compelled to do, and the more embarrassment they showed, the more intense was his satisfaction. There was not a grain of courtesy in his disposition. He would never allow a curtain to be drawn, or a window closed, if he wanted air, no matter who was ill, and to faint in his presence was an unpardonable misdemeanour. Even Madame de Maintenon obtained scarcely any indulgence: if in a fever, her windows were opened; if half blind with headache, hundred wax candles flashed in her eyes. St. Simon thus represents the monarch at dinner:—

The dinner was always *au petit couvert*, that is, the King ate by himself in his chamber upon a square table in front of the middle window. It was more or less abundant, for he ordered in the morning whether it was to be 'a little,' or 'very little' service. But even at this last there were always many dishes, and three courses without counting the fruit. The dinner being ready, the principal courtiers entered; then all who were known; and the first gentleman of the chamber on duty informed the King.

I have seen, but very rarely, Monsieur and his sons standing at their dinners, the King not offering them a seat. I have seen there the princes of the blood and the cardinals. I have often seen there also Monsieur, either on arriving from St. Cloud to see the King, or arriving from the council of despachés (the only one he entered), give the King his napkin and remain standing. A little while afterwards, the King seeing that he did not go away, asked him if he would not sit down; he bowed, and the King ordered a seat to be brought for him. A stool was put behind him. Some moments after, the King said, "Nay then, sit down my brother!" Monsieur bowed and seated himself until the end of the dinner, when he presented the napkin.

The transactions of a whole day are minutely and picturesquely described, the scene closing with a tableau:—

After supper the King stood some moments, his back to the balustrade of the foot

of his bed, encircled by all his Court, then, with bows to the ladies, passed into his cabinet, where, on arriving, he gave his orders. He passed a little less than an hour there, seated in an arm-chair, with his legitimate children and bastards, his grandchildren, legitimate and otherwise, and their husbands or wives. Monsieur in another arm-chair; the princesses upon stools, Monseigneur and all the other princes standing.

Louis died unregretted, except by a few valets and others of that kindred. His successor was too young for sorrow. Madame only feared and professed to respect him. By De Berry he was disliked. The Duke of Orleans, of course, felt no grief. The King had wearied de Maintenon. M. du Maine rejoiced like a savage at his death. His brother, the Count of Toulouse, said nothing, as usual. The Duchess of Orleans shed a few fashionable tears; the Court, in general, breathed more freely; Parisians thanked God for their deliverance; and the nation at large experienced nothing but a sentiment of relief. We believe St. Simon's statement to be literally accurate, and that Louis did pass away amid this callous silence. Immediately afterwards, when the Regency began, every one thought of himself and his order, and St. Simon rushed to the Duke of Orleans to beg him, in that hour of national emergency, to allow the dukes of France to sit at the Convocation of the States General with their hats on! To this the Regent assented. In the Parliament, with a storm of joy sweeping over his heart, the old gentleman took his seat, and he describes his own demeanour with exquisite complacency:—

Seated in my elevated place, and with nothing before me, I was able to glance over the whole assembly. I did so at once, piercing everybody with my eyes. One thing alone restrained me; it was that I did not dare to fix my eyes upon certain objects. I feared the fire and brilliant significance of my looks, at that moment so appreciated by everybody; and the more I saw I attracted attention, the more anxious was I to wean curiosity by my discreetness. I cast, nevertheless, a glittering glance upon the chief president and his friends, for the examination of whom I was admirably placed. I carried my looks over all the Parliament, and saw there an astonishment, a silence, a consternation, such as I had not expected, and which was of good augury to me. The chief president, insolently crest-fallen, the other presidents disconcerted and attentive to all, furnished me the most agreeable spectacle.

The third estate was in an attitude of humility:—

This was the moment when I relished, with delight utterly impossible to express, the sight of these haughty lawyers (who had dared to refuse us the salutation), prostrated upon their knees, and rendering, at our feet, homage to the throne, whilst we sat covered upon elevated seats, at the side of that same throne. These situations and these postures, so widely disproportioned, plead of themselves, with all the force of evidence, the cause of those who are really and truly *latrantes regis* against this *eusectum* of the third estate. My eyes fixed, glued, upon these haughty bourgeois, with their uncovered heads humiliated to the level of our feet, traversed the chief members kneeling or standing, and the ample folds of those fur robes of rabbit skin that would imitate ermine, which waved at each long and redoubled genuflexion; genuflexions which only finished by command of the King.

We must make room for two or three extracts as specimens of the anecdotic affluence of the Memoirs, and must therefore retrench our own remarks upon them. The Duchesse de Berry had some extraordinary overs:—

After many amours she had become smitten with Rion, a younger son of the house of Aydie. He was a fat, chubby, pale little fellow, who had so many pimples that he did not ill resemble an abcess. He had good teeth, but had no idea he should cause a passion which in less than no time became ungovernable, and which lasted a long while, without, however, interfering with temporary and passing amours. He was not worth a penny, but had many brothers and sisters who had no more than he. He was a lieutenant of dragoons, relative of Madame Pons, dame d'atours of Madame la Duchesse de Berry, who sent for him to try and do something for him. Scarcely had he arrived than the passion of the Duchesse declared itself, and he became the master of the Luxembourg where she dwelt. M. de Lauzun, who was a distant relative, was delighted, and chuckled inwardly. He thought he saw a repetition of the old times, when Mademoiselle was in her glory; he vouchsafed his advice to Rion.

Rion was gentle and naturally polished and respectful, a good and honest fellow. He soon felt the power of his charms, which could only have captivated the incomprehensible and depraved fantasy of a princess. He did not abuse this power; made himself liked by everybody; but he treated Madame la Duchesse de Berry as M. de Lauzun had treated Mademoiselle. He was soon decorated with the most beautiful lace and the richest cloths covered with silver, loaded with snuff-boxes, jewels, and precious stones. He took pleasure in making the princess long after him and be jealous; affecting to be still more jealous of her. He often made her cry. Little by little he obtained such authority over her that she did not dare to do anything without his permission, not even the most indifferent things. If she were ready to go to the Opera, he made her stay away; at other times he made her go thither in spite of herself. He made her treat well many ladies she did not like, or of whom she was jealous, and treat ill persons who pleased her, but of whom he pretended to be jealous. Even in her finery she had not the slightest liberty. He amused himself by making her disarrange her head-dress, or change her clothes, when she was quite dressed; and that so often and so publicly, that he accustomed her at last to take over-night his orders for her morning's dress and occupation, and on the morrow he would change everything, and the Princess wept as much as she could, and more.

St. Simon frequently saw Peter I. of Russia during his Paris visit:—

The Czar was a very tall man, exceedingly well made; rather thin, his face somewhat round, a high forehead, good eyebrows, a rather short nose, but not too short, and large at the end, rather thick lips, complexion reddish brown, good black eyes, large, bright, piercing, and well open; his look majestic and gracious when he liked, but when otherwise, severe and stern, with a twiching of the face, not often occurring, but which appeared to contort his eyes and all his physiognomy, and was frightful to see: it lasted a moment, gave him a wild and terrible air, and passed away. All his bearing showed his intellect, his reflectiveness, and his greatness, and was not devoid of a certain grace. He wore a linen collar, a round brown wig, as though without powder, and which did not reach to his shoulders; a brown coat tight to the body, even, and with gold buttons; vest, breeches, stockings, no gloves or ruffles, the star of his order over his coat, and the cordon under it, the coat itself being frequently quite unbuttoned, his hat upon the table, but never upon his head, even out of doors.

The Czar sat at the Opera like a Siamese ambassador, and called for beer:—

M. le Due d'Orleans came afterwards and took him to the Opera, into his grand box, where they sat upon the front seat upon a splendid carpet. Some time after, the Czar asked if there was no beer to be had? Immediately a large goblet of it was brought to him on a saucer. The Regent rose, took it, and presented it to the Czar,

who, with a smile and an inclination of politeness, received the goblet without any ceremony, drank, and put it back on the saucer which the Regent still held.

The famous scene in the council chamber of the Regent is on far too large a scale for quotation, but it is the best thing of the kind in the French language. The accounts of Law and the Mississippi scheme, the embassy to Spain, St. Simon's reception by the Princess of the Asturias, the death of the Duke of Orleans, and other remarkable transactions, abound in choice gossip of historical value, and bear out Lord Macaulay's estimate of the St. Simon Memoirs as 'incomparable.'

ANTIQUARIAN ARCHERY.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Vol. IV. No. 47.

Being destitute of the means of comparison, we cannot assert that this is the very best number of the *Proceedings* which has yet appeared; but certainly it has an absorbing interest for us. The Rev. J. Knowles accompanies his presentation of stone celts with a memorandum of a journey to Fair Isle, Shetland, in the hope of securing some existing relics of the Armada ship Duke Medina, wrecked there. But Sir Walter Scott had anticipated him, whilst collecting materials for his *Pirate*. Mr. Knowles, consequently, was disappointed; but, in refilling the Spaniards' graves, found a stone celt, now exhibited. He makes a just distinction between the genuine weapon of this class, and spurious specimens sold in London as such, but which are brought from the Feejee Islands: the ancient British celt is bevelled on both sides, the Feejee stone axe on one side only. Our own explorations of the Polynesian isles enable us to testify to the accuracy of this distinction.

The next paper is a curious and elaborate analysis of a MS. enumeration of the archers' marks anciently standing in the locality still called Finsbury Fields, and compiled in 1601. But the ingrate march of brick and mortar has, for some years past, converted that once rural locality into a labyrinth of squalid streets and lanes. Yet our elder contemporaries can remember when even that broad granite area, called emphatically Finsbury-pavement, was a cheerful green spot, open to the sports and games of London citizens. Thither, at an earlier period—the date of Mr. Williams's MS.—the bold London 'prentices, 'proper and tall,' went to practise the noble game of archery. We may well imagine what splendid exhibitions of strong and accurate shooting were continually exhibited there. Even Justice Shallow's friend, Old Double of Stamford, who 'clapt into the clout a twelve score, and carried you a forehand (big breasted) shaft, a fourteen and a fourteen and a half,' would have been outmatched at least in flight shooting, since the MS. gives nineteen score as the distance between All hollows and Dunc's Deed marks. Indeed, Miss Banks, Sir Joseph's daughter, an enthusiastic lover of the bow, has left a MS. note that a friend, Mr. Bates, often shot eighteen score in these same Finsbury Fields. The small printed volume called *An Ayme for the Finsbury Archers*, alluded to by Hansard in his *Book of Archery*, is far less comprehensive than Mr. Williams's treatise, the number of marks being not given there, and the longest range is only thirteen score yards. The MS. also accurately defines the length and breadth of this once beautiful, verdant plain—*heu! quantum multus ab illo*—the former being about one mile, the latter three-quarters. Sir William Davenant, in his 'Long Vacation,' thus describes sundry idle attorneys and proctors making archery matches in Finsbury:—

With loynes in canvas bow-case tied,
Where arrows stick with mickle pride;
Like ghosts of Adam Bell or Clymme,
Sol sets—for fear they'll shoot at him.

In the reign of Henry VIII., a shout through the City of "Shovels and spades! shovels and spades!" assembled a band of these same 'prentice lads, who speedily levelled the hedges, dykes, and garden houses, by which trespassers had encroached on the shooting-fields. Even as late as 1786, the Artillery Company, preceded by a detachment of their pioneers, marched over Finsbury, pulling down the fences again illegally erected. The brick wall enclosing a lead mill was also attacked; but, on the entreaty of the proprietor, the Hon. Company ordered it to be spared, contenting themselves with directing one of their archers to shoot an arrow over it, in token of their prescriptive right.

The archery world is indebted to Mr. Williams for bringing this curious document under its notice, and for his historical sketch of the old English sport. Several excellent antiquarian papers follow, of which space forbids further notice. Earl Stanhope delivered an eloquent address and tribute to deceased members. Mr. O. Morgan, V.P., has several remarkable papers; so have Sir H. Ellis, Messrs. Pryse, Akerman, Fairholt, Wylie, &c.

The Rev. F. Montgomery Treherne, whose family have long been settled in South Wales, exhibited four accurate sketches of Roche Castle, once a frontier tower belonging to a family of that name, originally Irish, and sometimes styled de Rupe, or of the Rock. A tradition prevails among the villagers, that its last heir perished by a snake's bite. His family, having been warned by a dream that this event would occur during the year of his majority, shut him within the castle, closing up the gate, and supplying food by means of a basket and string. But, in the last week of his twelvemonth's imprisonment, an adder is said to have crept out of some firewood laid up in the chamber, and bit the sleeping youth, thus fulfilling the prophecy. It should, however, be stated, that an exactly similar legend is believed by the peasantry living in the neighbourhood of an old turret called Cook's Folly, near Bristol.

NEW EDITIONS.

MR. BENTLEY has this week published the sixth volume of Mr. Peter Cunningham's edition of *The Letters of Horace Walpole*, now first chronologically arranged. The portraits are those of Lady de Beauclerk, Anne Chambers, Countess Temple, Samuel Foote, and Mary Fitzpatrick Lady Holland. Three volumes remain to complete this remarkable edition.

MR. LONGMAN has issued a second volume of his cheap edition of Lord Macaulay's *History of England*. We hear that the success of the experiment has been extraordinary. Local institutes should at once purchase the history in this new, attractive, and accessible form.

Messrs. Chapman and Hall have added to their cheap uniform reprint of Mr. Charles Lever's work *The O'Donoghue: a Tale of Ireland Fifty Years ago*, with illustrations by Hablot K. Browne. Readers of this story will remember the fine historical spirit pervading it, always toned and relieved by that humour which has rendered Mr. Lever a favourite.

Mr. Bentley issues a fourth edition, in one neat and cheap volume, *Our Antipodes; or, Residence and Rambles in the Australian Colonies*, by Lieut.-Col. Mundy. In this instance, popularity has been well bestowed.

Messrs. Longman have published a 'Second Series of Essays' by the Rev. Baden Powell, entitled, *Christianity without Judaism*. We place them among reappearances as including the substance of various sermons delivered in London and other places. But we would emphatically direct attention to the erudite solidity and logical acumen of Mr. Powell's argument.

Mr. William Lay sends us a volume which must also rank among reprints. It is Miss Pardoe's *Pilgrimages in Paris* (with an elegant portrait of the writer). The book is one of really pleasant pages, many of them transposed from *Fraser's Magazine*, to which they were originally contributed by Miss Pardoe. The sketches are animated, varied, and informing. That descriptive of French criminal procedure is particularly graphic.

The Arts.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES.

The charming young actress who has recently delighted the frequenters of the Haymarket took her first benefit on Wednesday evening, when she appeared in Mr. OXFORD'S skilful and elegant adaptation of the *Adrienne Lecourteur* of Scribe and Legouvé. The attempt was a very bold one, for Miss SEDOWICK undertook the part which RACHEL has made her own by that wonderful genius which combines pantherlike passion with the tenderness of a fallen angel. Our English actress, however, played with much skill and feeling, and received an enthusiastic reception from a crowded and brilliant audience.

One of the series of four performances at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, in honour of the Prince Royal's marriage—which will take place under the excellent auspices of Mr. MITCHELL—will be a performance of *Macbeth* on the 18th of January. Mr. PHELPS, who is the director of the Shakespearean night, will play *Macbeth*; and Miss HELEN FAUCIT will once more delight a London audience in *Lady Macbeth*.

At the Concert at the CRYSTAL PALACE last Saturday, Mademoiselle FINOLI was rapturously applauded in a cavatina from the *Barbiere*. This lady ought to be engaged at one of the Opera-houses. She has youth, beauty, voice, and vocalization.

THE POLYTECHNIC.

MR. PEPPER has provided an abundant banquet for his Christmas visitors this year. The amusements comprise—a new Entertainment by Mr. C.

EAST INDIA COMPANY.—At the quarterly general court of this company held on Wednesday, the pensions granted to General Wilson, to Mrs. Nicholson, and to Lady Neill, were confirmed after discussion, during which Mr. Lewin moved that the pension to the latter lady ought to be increased from £500 to £504 per year. The Chairman informed Mr. Lewin that this motion could not be put, and the hon. proprietor then proceeded to object to the course the Directors had taken with respect to the pensions. In the course of his observations, he said that the Board of Directors had not only caused the massacre in India, but, in conjunction with the Government, the Board of Directors were responsible for what took place after the outbreak, in consequence of their neglect in sending out troops. He was ultimately called to order. Mr. Jones then moved,—“That it is due to the advancing intelligence of the people of India, that a deputy from each university in the several Presidencies be maintained at the public expense in this country, with a view to inform the proprietors as to the wishes and complaints of the people of India.” In supporting this motion, he denounced the general conduct of the Company; attributed the insurrection to the annexations and tyranny of Lord Dalhousie, and to the alteration of the law of inheritance; and eulogized the character of the Hindoo. Mr. Lewin seconded the motion, but it was ultimately withdrawn. Before the breaking up of the court, the Chairman announced that he had been informed by Lord Palmerston of the intention of Ministers to abolish the double government.

THE OPERATION FOR CANCER OF THE TONGUE.—The man whose tongue was recently cut out at Edinburgh, on account of cancer, died in about a week after the operation, but not from the effects of the removal of the organ. He expired from an internal disease.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 22.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN BRITTER, Noble-street, Falcon-square, and Park-road, Dalston, dealer in silk—CHARLES HUBBARD, Queen's-road, Haverton-hill, builder—JOHN COLLINSON, Pittman-buildings, St. Luke, licensed victualler—SAMUEL HARRIS and ISAAC GABRIEL COSTA, Commercial-street, Whitechapel, wholesale clothiers—SAMUEL EDWARD STEANE, Oxford, soap and blue manufacturer—ROBERT CAVE, Windsor, Berkshire, fishmonger—MABEL MOOR, Green-street, Grovesnor-square, child-bed linen manufacturer—JOHN STARKEY and JOHN FREDERICK ADAM COCK, Birmingham, percussion cap makers—THOMAS BARRS, Colwich End, Staffordshire, maltster—HENRY JOHNSON, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, licensed victualler—JOHN JAMISON M'RAE, Newark-upon-Trent, Nottinghamshire, tailor—THOMAS GULICK, Bristol, victualler—EDWARD SMITH, Swansden, Glamorganshire, draper—ALEXANDER BRYSON, Redcar, Yorkshire, brewer—JOHN STHEAD, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, joiner—WILLIAM CROSSLEY and GEORGE CHOBSELEY, Elsdon, Yorkshire, cotton spinners—JOHN BUCKLEY SHARP, Bingley and Bradford, Yorkshire,

worsted spinner—DAVID ROBERTS and WILLIAM JAMES HANSON, Halifax, Yorkshire, worsted spinners—WILLIAM GOUNDHILL, Eastrington, Yorkshire, farmer—SAMUEL BARLOW, Sheffield, grocer—WILLIAM WATNMACK, Sheffield, joiner—JAMES EASTON, Liverpool and Cork, Ireland, ship-owner—JOHN HAMPSON, Wrexham, Denbighshire, grocer—WILLIAM SKIRTING, WALKER, Liverpool, shipowner—EDWIN SPENCE ROBERTS, Liverpool, shipowner—GEORGE WORSDELL, Warrington, Lancashire, iron manufacturers—ANDREW VETCH, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, music-seller.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—W. W. MOFFAT, Edinburgh, bookseller—J. M. ANDERSON, Glasgow, ironmonger—P. M'LAUREN, Glasgow, ship carpenter—W. DAVIDSON, Edinburgh, coffee merchant—E. KERR, Kilmarnock, tinsmith—W. CAMERON, Glasgow, commission merchant—G. MURRAY, Glasgow, flesher—J. WATT, Ellon, hotel keeper—J. RAMSDALE, Dundee, baker—W. IROSSIDE, Fife, Aberdeenshire, merchant.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.
NORTHCOTE.—Dec. 21, at Gordon-street, Gordon-square, the wife of S. H. Northcote, Esq.: a daughter.
SEYMOUR.—Dec. 20, at Rochford, the wife of G. F. Seymour, Esq.: a son.

MARRIAGES.

FRY—SOUTH.—Dec. 19, at St. George's, Bloomsbury, John Thomas, son of T. H. Fry, Esq., of Wincombe, Somersetshire, to Mary Jane, daughter of the late T. South, Esq.
HEATON—GARDINER.—Dec. 17, at the parish church, Halifax, H. W. Henton, Esq., Lieutenant H.M.'s 14th Regiment, to Fanny, daughter of L. Gardiner, Esq., of Saville House, Halifax.

DEATHS.

BORRADALE.—On the 3rd inst., at 84, Addison-road, Notting-hill, Agnes Sarah Blazier, widow of the Rev. William Borradale, M.A., Vicar of Wandsworth, Surrey, and daughter of the late Rev. Joseph Shaw, M.A., Rector of High Ham, near Langport, Somerset, aged 51.
LONG.—Dec. 20, Ellen, daughter of S. Long, Esq., of South-seas-villas, Southwicks.

NAPIER.—Dec. 19, at Shanklin, Isle of Wight, Lady Napier, wife of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B., M.P.
POWELL.—Dec. 20, at Larkhill, Worcester, Rear-Admiral H. B. Powell, aged 73.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Thursday Evening, December 24.

ON Monday, a marked change was observable in markets generally, and after a steady rise throughout the day, Funds, and English and Foreign stocks and shares, closed at still higher quotations, which have been maintained up to the present time, the trifling flatnesses with which they close today being attributable solely to the absence of business so closely upon Christmas-day, which will not be resumed until Monday, Saturday being a holiday in the Stock Exchange. And at the Bank the attendance will only be such as is necessary for cash transactions. Yesterday, Consols which opened at the closing price of Wednesday, experienced a slight rise on the news of the relief of Lucknow, and closed steadily at 93*1/2*, for the account. This morning they opened at the same price and close at 91*1/2*. The Bank has reduced the rate to 8 per cent., this measure was anticipated in the

ARMITAGE COOPER, entitled 'Home for the Holidays,' with buffo songs written by Mr. J. C. BROUH, and dissolving views, including novel optical effects; some Phantasmagorical Illusions, illustrating a lecture on Natural Magic; new views in the Cosmometric Exhibition; dissolving scenery, illustrating the rebellion in India; Mr. PEPPER's lecture on a 'Scuttle of Coals'; pictures of the Leviathan, with description (of how she won't go into 'her native element'); a Giant Christmas-tree, &c. Mr. PEPPER provides an Elysium for boys and girls, and a good deal of matter worthy of the attention of older and more thoughtful minds, including Mr. STEPHENS's bread-making machine, to which we have already introduced our readers.

ANOTHER NEW CONJUROR.

UNDETERRED by the success and the astonishing facility of Herr WILJALBA FRICKEL, another new conjuror has made his appearance for the wonder and delight of Christmas auditors. He comes from the land of Vinci, the Magician and the enchanter of Ariosto and Tasso—from Italy, itself an enchantment and a wonder. Some of the chief performances of the Cavaliere ANTONIO POLETTI (for such is his rhythmical name) may be gathered from his Programme, where we find such headings as—'The Pyramids of Egypt'; 'Astrological Experiments'; 'The Mirror of Armida'; 'Cards Played by Mesmerism' (Signor POLETTI would feel much obliged if all visitors desirous of playing would bring their own cards with them); 'Illusions Practised by the Magician Merlin, to Amuse the Lady of the Lake'; 'The Tomb of the Living'; 'The Invisible Spirit become Visible'; 'Magnetic Floating by a Lady in the Air'. This is quite the poetry of prodigitation; and we doubt not that the Professor will receive nightly crowds at WILLIS'S ROOMS.

THE LYCEUM.

MISS PYNE, MR. HARRISON, and their company, bade farewell at the LYCEUM last Saturday, and have now departed from London for the present, leaving charming memories behind them. An address was circulated among the audience, in which the co-managers made the agreeable intimation that negotiations are now pending for their occupancy of another house in the metropolis, where we are sure they will experience a renewal of that hearty welcome they have received at the LYCEUM. They also state that they shall there produce a new opera by Mr. GEORGE BRISTOW, an American musician. This work, we are told, has already won many and enthusiastic suffrages in the United States.

MR. DILLON renewed his season on Thursday, when, anticipating the honours of 'Boxing Night,' he produced his extravaganza and pantomime, *Lalla Rookh; or, the Princess, the Peri, and the Troubadour*. Of this show piece we may briefly say that it blazes with golden splendours, and gives occasion for some very effective burlesque acting by Mr. TOOLE.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE, this next week, will be a magic land of delights and wonders. There are to be masques, and revels, and dances (including Sir Roger de Coverley on a gigantic scale), and gratuitous monster plum-puddings, and ditto cakes, and regal Punch and Judy, and ballets, and amazing Christmas-trees—all for the shilling admittance. Here is a ground on which the high and the humble may meet, with interchange of pleasure. May all avail themselves of it, to the exhilarating and enlarging of their hearts and souls!

Stock Exchange by many, early in the week, and did not effect Consols. Loans on Government securities were easily obtainable at reduced rates, and were offered at 4 per cent. The demand for money at the Bank continues light and large parcels of gold are arriving.

After business hours, Consols improved to 93*1/2*, and remained closed very quiet.

Blackburn, 91*1/2*; Caledonian, 81*1/2*, 82*1/2*; Chester and Holyhead, 33, 35; Eastern Counties, 5*7/8*, 5*8/8*; Great Northern, 97*1/2*, 98*1/2*, 99*1/2*; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 96, 98, Great Western, 54, 54*1/2*; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 93*1/2*; London and Blackwall, 5*1/2*, 6*1/2*; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 105, 106; London and North-Western, 96, 96*1/2*; London and South-Western, 93, 94; Midland, 89*1/2*; North-Eastern (Berwick), 95, 96; South-Eastern (Dover), 69, 70; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 64, 64*1/2*; Dutch Rhein, 4*1/2*, 4*1/2*; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 26*1/2*, 27*1/2*; Great Central of France, —; Great Luxembourg, 7, 7*1/2*; Northern of France, 37*1/2*, 38*1/2*; Paris and Lyons, 34, 34*1/2*; Royal Danish, 14*1/2*, 16*1/2*; Royal Swedish 4*1/2*; Bamboe and Meuse, 7, 7*1/2*.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Thursday, December 24. The Corn trade has continued in a very sluggish state during the whole of the week. There has been only a moderate quantity of Indian corn at the Liverpool fair. From Ireland, the arrivals of oatmeal have somewhat increased; but there has been very little of other produce. At most of the great agricultural towns, the trade has been extremely dull; but an improved feeling is reported from Gainsborough, and at Edinburgh and Glasgow sales have been comparatively brisk.

To-morrow (Friday) being Christmas-day, there will of course be a complete cessation of business; and Saturday is expected to be pretty generally observed as a holiday.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK. (CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	217	218 <i>1/2</i>	218 <i>1/2</i>	217 <i>1/2</i>	218 <i>1/2</i>	—
3 per Cent. Red.....	92 <i>1/2</i>	92 <i>1/2</i>	94 <i>1/2</i>	92 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	—
3 per Cent. Con. An.	93 <i>1/2</i>	94	94	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	—
Consols for Account	92 <i>1/2</i>	92 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	—
New 3 per Cent. An.	—	—	—	—	—	—
New 24 per Cents...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Ans. 1860.....	17 <i>1/2</i>	—	—	21 <i>1/2</i> -18	—	—
India Stock.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto, under £1000.....	25 <i>1/2</i>	29 <i>1/2</i>	29 <i>1/2</i>	30	30	—
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	2 <i>1/2</i>	4 <i>1/2</i>	1 <i>1/2</i>	4 <i>1/2</i>	4 <i>1/2</i>	—
Ditto, £500.....	par	4 <i>1/2</i>	5 <i>1/2</i>	1 <i>1/2</i>	1 <i>1/2</i>	—
Ditto, Small.....	—	3 <i>1/2</i>	3 <i>1/2</i>	4 <i>1/2</i>	4 <i>1/2</i>	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.						
Brazilian Bonds.....	97	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	—	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents.....	96	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents.....	—	—	—	—
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	19 <i>1/2</i>	—	—	—	—	10 <i>1/2</i>
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	—	Spanish 4 <i>1/2</i> per Cents.....	—	—	—	9 <i>1/2</i>
Dutch 4 per Cents. Cert.	98	Spanish Committee Cert.	—	—	—	4 <i>1/2</i>
Ecuador Bonds.....	—	of Coup. not fun.	—	—	—	4 <i>1/2</i>
Mexican Account.....	30	Turkish 6 per Cento.	—	—	—	9 <i>1/2</i>
Peruviana 4 <i>1/2</i> per Cents.	93 <i>1/2</i>	Turkish New, aditio.	10 <i>1/2</i>	—	—	—
Portuguese 3 per Cents.	44 <i>1/2</i>	Venezuela 4 <i>1/2</i> per Cento.	39 <i>1/2</i>	—	—	—

PROFESSOR WILJALBA FRIKELL.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

TWO HOURS OF ILLUSIONS.

PHYSICAL AND NATURAL MAGIC,
without the aid of any Apparatus. WEDNESDAY
and SATURDAY AFTERNOONS at 3, and EVERY
EVENING at 8. Stalls, 5s.; Balcony Stalls, 4s.; Boxes, 2s.;
Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Private Boxes, Two Guineas; One
Guinea and a half, and One Guinea. Places to be secured
at Mr. MITCHELL's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—Twelve Entertainments at Polygraphic Hall, Strand.—This week, commencing daily at 3, and in the evening at 8. Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Amphitheatre, 1s. Seats can be had at Mr. Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond-street; and at the Hall.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—The South Kensington Museum and Schools will be open to the Public FREE in the MORNING and EVENING from the 26th of December to the end of January next, both days inclusive. By order of the Committee of Council on Education.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE IN IMPERIAL PINTS.

HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., are now delivering the October Brewings of the above celebrated Ale. Its surpassing excellence is vouched for by the highest medical and chemical authorities of the day. Supplied in bottles, also in casks of 18 gallons and upwards, by HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., Wine and Spirit Merchants, 54, Pall-mail.

Dec. 1857.

SISAL CIGARS! SISAL CIGARS! at Goodrich's Cigar, Tobacco, and Snuff Stores, 407, Oxford-street, London, near Soho-square. Box, containing 14 for 1s. 2d.; post free, six stamps extra; lb. boxes, containing 16, 1s. None are genuine, unless signed "H. N. Goodrich."

EPPS'S COCOA.—This excellent preparation is supplied in lb. and ½ lb. packets, 1s. 6d. and 10d. A tin canister, containing 7½ lb., 1ls. 6d.—**JAMES EPPS,** Homoeopathic Chemist, 170, Piccadilly; 82, Old Broad-street, City; and 113, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH USED IN THE ROYAL LAUNDRY, And pronounced by HER MAJESTY'S LAUNDRESS to be THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED.
Sold by all Chandlers, Grocers, &c. &c.

BRECKNELL'S SKIN SOAP, recommended as the best for producing a clear and healthy Skin, being the old Yellow Soap, made expressly for the purpose, of the best materials, and not scented. Sold only in One Shilling packets of either four rounded tablets, or eight squared; and extra large tablets, Sixpence each.—**BRECKNELL, TURNER, and SONS,** Manufacturers of Wax, Spermaceti, Stearine, and Tallow Candles to her Majesty, Agents to Price's Patent Candle Company, dealers in all other Patent Candles, all kinds of Household and Toilet soaps, in Colza, Sperm, Vegetable, and other Lamp Oils, &c., Bee-hive, 31, Haymarket, London.—Please observe that each tablet and square is stamped "Brecknell's Skin Soap."

BRECKNELL'S GLYCERINE SOAP.—This Soap, now much improved, is recommended for use when the skin is rough or chapped, the glycerine combined with the soap producing a softening effect. Sold in Packets of four Tablets, for 1s. 6d.—**BRECKNELL, TURNER, and SONS,** Bee-hive, 31, Haymarket, London.—Please observe that each Tablet is stamped "Brecknell's Glycerine Soap."

IMPORTANT to EVERY MAN who KEEPS A HORSE, COW, SHEEP, or PIG.—**THORLEY'S FOOD for CATTLE,** as used in her Majesty's stables; also on his Royal Highness the Prince Consort's farm, Windsor. Sold in casks containing 448 feeds (with measure enclosed), price 50s. per cask; carriage paid to any railway station in the United Kingdom. For horses it is indispensable in promoting and sustaining all the animal functions in health and vigour. For milch cows it is invaluable, increasing the quantity and improving the quality of milk. For beasts nothing can compare with it for feeding quickly. For sheep and pigs its effect in one month will exceed all expectation. A pamphlet, containing testimonials from Mr. Brebner, steward to his Royal Highness the Prince Consort; Mr. James Fisher, farm manager to her Grace the Duchess of Athole; Sir David Cunningham, Bart.; Sir John Cathcart, Bart.; Sir John Ribton, Bart.; and some of the leading agriculturists of the day, may be had, post free, on application to the inventor and sole proprietor, **JOSEPH THORLEY,** 77, Newgate-street, London; 115, High-street, Hull. Post-office orders to be made payable at the General Post-office.

MAJOR'S IMPROVEMENTS in VETERINARY SCIENCE.

"If progress is daily made in Medical Science by those whose duty it is to study the diseases to which the human flesh is heir, it would seem that improvements in Veterinary art quite keep pace with it, as is manifest on a visit to the well-known Horse Infirmary of Mr. Major, in Cockspur-street. Here incipient and chronic lameness is discovered and cured with a facility truly astonishing, while the efficacy of the remedies, and the quickness of their action, appear to have revolutionised the whole system of firing and blistering. Among the most recent proofs of the cure of spavins by Mr. Major, we may mention Cannobie, the winner of the Metropolitan, and second favourite for the Derby, and who is now as sound as his friends and backers could desire. And by the advertisement of Mr. Major's pamphlet in another column, we perceive that other equally miraculous cures are set forth, which place him at the head of the Veterinary art in London."—*Globe*, May 10, 1856.

WINTER HOSIERY, of every description, including the new coloured Wool Stockings; also Underclothing for Family use and Invalids. Printed Flannels and Dressing Gowns in great variety.—**POPE and PLANTE, Manufacturers,** 4, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, London.

EIGHT HUNDRED HONEYCOMB WOOL SHAWLS at 10s. 6d. each.—**Messrs. FARMER and ROGERS** are NOW SELLING A MANUFACTURER'S STOCK of SHAWLS, purchased owing to the great depression of trade, at nearly half the original cost, and consisting of French shawls, Paisley shawls, Scotch tartan shawls, and fancy shawls; particular attention is solicited to upwards of 500 honeycomb shawls at 10s. 6d. each, being one-third the original price.—**THE GREAT SHAWL and CLOAK EMPIRUM,** 171, 173, 175, Regent-street. N.B.—Cloaks and mantles at greatly reduced prices.

THE SYDENHAM TOP COAT is made from the best Materials, by Workmen of cultivated taste, at the moderate sum of Two Guineas; the appreciation of the fashionable world of genuine and perfect Articles of Dress renders the success of the Sydenham Top Coat a certainty.—**SAMUEL BROTHERS,** 29, Ludgate-hill.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?—This query can be answered by **SAMUEL BROTHERS,** 29, Ludgate-hill, the inventors of the **SYDENHAM TROUSERS,** 17s. 6d. for in the fashionable world there is associated with the Sydenham Trousers a perfect idea, synonymous with a graceful, easy, and well-fitting Garment.

THE BULFANGER, NEW WINTER OVERCOAT, 25s. to 42s., just introduced by **B. BENJAMIN, Merchant Tailor,** 74, Regent-street, W.

The OUDE WRAPPER, Registered, combining Coat, Cloak, and Sleaved Cape, from 25s. to 60s. The PEELISSIER made to order from Scotch, Heather, and Cheviot Tweeds, all wool, and thoroughly shrunk. The TWO GUINEA DRESS and FROCK COATS, the GUINEA DRESS TROUSERS, and the HALF-GUINEA WAISTCOAT. N.B.—A perfect fit guaranteed.

THE PURCHASERS OF CLOTHING ARE specially reminded of the advantages to be obtained at the establishment of **LAWRENCE HYAM,** 38, Gracechurch-street, London, the largest Manufacturing Clothier and Outfitter in the Kingdom. The system of business pursued is to charge one uniform and low per-cent of profit, to ensure to the customer a garment warranted for strength and durability, combined with a fashionable and gentlemanly style. **THE READY-MADE DEPARTMENT** is celebrated for the extent and variety of its stock, consisting of every description of gentlemen's, youths', and boys' clothing, while the saving effected renders it important and entitles it to great consideration in large families. **THE ORDERED DEPARTMENT** offers also peculiar advantages, the *artistes* being men of celebrity and the material the best. **CLERICAL and PROFESSIONAL** men are specially invited, the black and mixture cloths being of a fast dye, and warranted for durability. An ordered suit of black for 31s.; also the celebrated 17s. trouser in great variety.

LAWRENCE HYAM.

Merchant Tailor, Manufacturing Clothier, and Outfitter, 38, GRACECHURCH-STREET, CITY, LONDON.

HEAL and SONS' EIDER QUILTS from One Guinea to Ten Guineas; also GOOSE DOWN QUILTS from 8s. 6d. to 25s. List of prices and sizes sent free by post.—**HEAL and SONS' NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE of BEDSTEADS and PRICED LIST of BEDDING** also sent post free.

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100,000 CUSTOMERS WANTED.—**SAUNDERS BROTHERS' STATIONERY** is the BEST and CHEAPEST to be obtained. Cream-laid note paper, 2s. per ream; black-bordered note, 4s.; letter paper, 4s.; straw paper, 2s. 6d. per ream; cream-laid adhesive envelopes, 4d. per 100, or 3s. per 1000; commercial envelopes, from 4s. per 1000; black-bordered envelopes, 6d. per 100. A SAMPLE PACKET of STATIONERY (Sixty descriptions, all priced and numbered) sent post free on receipt of four stamps. All orders over 20s. sent CARRIAGE PAID. Price lists, post free. NO CHARGE made for stamping arms, crests, initials, &c.—**SAUNDERS BROTHERS,** Manufacturing Stationers, 104, London-wall, London, E.C.

DR. DE JONGH'S

LIGHT - BROWN COD LIVER OIL, entirely free from nauseous flavour and after-taste, is prescribed with the greatest success by the Faculty as the safest, speediest, and most effectual remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, DIABETES, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, NEURALGIA, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, GENERAL DEBILITY, AND ALL SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS.

Numerous spontaneous testimonials from physicians of European reputation attest that, in innumerable cases where other kinds of Cod Liver Oil had been long and copiously administered with little or no benefit, Dr. DE JONGH'S OIL has produced immediate relief, arrested disease, and restored health.

OPINION OF DR. LETHEBY,

Medical Officer of Health to the City of London, &c. &c.
"I have frequently had occasion to analyse the Cod Liver Oil which is sold at your establishment—I mean that variety which is prepared for medicinal use in the Lofoten Isles, Norway, and sent into commerce with the sanction of Dr. de Jongh, of the Hague. In all cases I have found it possessing the same set of properties, among which the presence of cholic compounds and of iodine in a state of organic combination are the most remarkable; in fact, the Oil corresponds in all its characters with that named 'Huile brune' and described as the best variety in the masterly treatise of Dr. de Jongh. It is, I believe, universally acknowledged that this description of Oil has great therapeutic power; and, from my investigations, I have no doubt of its being a pure and unadulterated article."

Sold ONLY in IMPERIAL Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.; Quarts, 9s.; capsule and labelled with DR. DE JONGH'S Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE CAN POSSIBLY BE GENUINE, by most respectable Chemists throughout the Provinces.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEPOT,
ANSAR, HARFORD, & CO., 77, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
DR. DE JONGH'S SOLE BRITISH CONSIGNNEES.

CRAUFURD COLLEGE, MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.

The new Oxford Examination Regulations will in future direct the course of study, which will prepare students under fifteen to take the degree of Bachelor, and confer the title of Associate of Arts of the University. The college has a Principal of energy, experience, skill, and extensive learning; a complete staff of professors, and a revenue established by the success of its scholars at competitive examinations, with every arrangement for the formation of moral character, the exercise of the physical powers, and the development of robust health. Pupils are admitted from seven years; the terms from 30s. to 50s.; detailed prospectuses and references on application.

MAPPIN'S SHILLING RAZOR, sold everywhere, warranted good, by the Makers, **MAPPIN BROTHERS,** Queen's Cutlery Works, Sheffield, and 67 and 68, King William-street, City, London, where the largest stock of Cutlery in the world is kept.

MAPPIN'S SUPERIOR TABLE-KNIVES maintain their unrivalled superiority. Handles cannot possibly become loose; the blades are all of the very first quality, being their own Sheffield manufacture.

Table. Kns. Dst. Kns. Carver. per Doz. per Doz. per Doz. per Doz. per Doz. per Doz.

Ivory 3½ in. Handle, balanced.	20s.	18s.	6s.
Do. 4 in.	25s.	18s.	9s.

MAPPIN'S SILVER-PLATED DESSERT KNIVES and FORKS, in Mahogany Cases.

12 Pairs Knives and Forks, Ivory Handles, in Case.	80s.
12 Do. Pearl Handles, do.	90s.
12 Do. Silver-Plated Handles, do.	90s.

MAPPIN'S ELECTRO-SILVER PLATE.—**MAPPIN BROTHERS,** Manufacturers by Special Appointment to the Queen, are the only Sheffield makers who supply the consumers in London. Their LONDON SHOW ROOMS, 67 and 68, King William-street, London Bridge, contain by far the largest STOCK of ELECTRO-SILVER PLATE in the World, which is transmitted direct from their Manufactory, Queen's Cutlery Works, Sheffield.

Fiddle Pattern.	Double Thread.	King's Pattern.	
12 Table Forks, best quality.	£1 16 0	£2 14 0	£3 0 0
12 Table Spoons, best quality.	1 16 0	2 14 0	3 0 0

12 Dessert Forks, best quality.	1 7 0	2 0 0	2 4 0
12 Dessert Spoons, best quality.	1 7 0	2 0 0	2 4 0

12 Tea Spoons, best quality.	0 16 0	1 4 0	1 7 0
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Messrs. Mapin Brothers respectfully invite buyers to inspect their unprecedented display, which, for beauty of design, exquisite workmanship, and novelty, stands unrivaled. Their illustrated Catalogue, which is continually receiving addition of New Designs, free on application.—**MAPPIN BROTHERS,** 67 and 68, King William-street, London Bridge; Manufactury, Queen's Cutlery Works, Sheffield.

WASHING, CLEANING, and DYEING for London.—Dirty Carpets, Rugs, Blankets, Counterpanes, Muslin and Lace Curtains, and all large articles, washed and finished in the best style. Moreen and Damask Curtains, Dresses, Shawls, &c., dyed and finished extra well at moderate charges. The Company's vans receive and deliver, free of charge, no matter how small the quantity. All goods returned within a week. Price Lists forwarded on application. Country orders promptly attended to. **METROPOLITAN STEAM WASHING AND DYEING COMPANY,** 17, WHARF-ROAD, CITY-ROAD, N.

PATENT IMPROVEMENTS IN STABLE FITTINGS.—**COTTAM'S PATENT COMPONIZED MANGERS,** Water or Gruel Troughs.

The application of this new patent method of lining iron mangers being inexpensive, will greatly increase their adoption; they possess all the advantages of Cottam's celebrated enamelled mangers, are equal in appearance, cleanliness, and durability; the lining is warranted to stand any amount of fair wear, and will neither chip nor change its colour by use. Cottam's patent permanent attached drop cover for the above is a most essential addition to their fittings; it is never in the way, can be placed and replaced in an instant, while its cheapness, simplicity, and utility in keeping the contents of the trough clean and regulating the quantity to be taken, is quite sufficient to ensure its use. The new crossbar top plate, to prevent the horse wasting the hay by tossing it out of the rack, and the improved curved front plate by which means all sharp projections are obviated, likewise Cottam's patent noiseless halter guide and collar rein, with the newly-invented swivel ring for allowing the strap free work in any position, are most important inventions for the horses' safety and comfort. Cottam's patent portable seed-box is also of great utility in these fittings. The above, as well as the patent loose box and harness fittings, improved stable drains, and every description of stable furniture, can be seen at the manufactory and show-rooms of Cottam and Hallen, 2, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, London, W. Illustrated Catalogues on application.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hip, being sent to the Manufacturer, JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London.

Price of a single truss, 16s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.—Postage, 1s.

Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d.—Postage 1s. 6d.

Umbilical Truss, 42s., and 52s. 6d.—Postage 1s. 10d.

Post-office Orders to be made payable to JOHN WHITE Post Office, Piccadilly.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c. for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on an ordinary stocking.

Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. each.—Postage, 6d.

JOHN WHITE, Manufacturer, 228, Piccadilly, London.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE IRONS.—

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS. They contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE IRONS, and GENERAL IRON-MONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright fenders, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 4*s. 1*ds.** to 1*3*s. 1*ds.***; ditto, with ormolu ornaments and two sets of bars, 5*s. 5*ds.** to 3*s. 1*ds.**; Bronzed Fenders, with standards, 7*s. 6*ds.**; Steel Fenders, 2*s. 1*ds.** to 1*1*s. 6*ds.***; Fire Irons, from 1*s. 9*ds.** the set to 4*s. 4*ds.**.

The BURTON and all other PATENT STOVES, with radiating hearth plates.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied assortment of TABLE-CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on SALE at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales—*\$4* inch ivory-handled-table-knives, with high shoulders, 1*2*s. 6*ds.*** per dozen; dessert knives to match, 1*0*s. 1*ds.***; if to balance, 6*s. per dozen extra*; carvers, 4*s. 6*ds.** per pair; large sizes, from 2*s. to 2*s. 6*ds.*** per dozen; extra fine ivory, 3*s. 6*ds.**; if with silver ferrules, 4*s. 6*ds.** to 5*s. 6*ds.**; white bone table-knives, 6*s. per dozen*; dessert, 3*s. 6*ds.**; carvers, 2*s. 6*ds.** per pair; black horn table-knives, 7*s. 6*ds.** per dozen; dessert, 6*s. 6*ds.**; black wood-handled-table-knives and forks, 6*s. per dozen*; table steel from 1*s. each*. The largest stock in existence of plated dessert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish-carvers.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR SILVER.

The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced more than twenty years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when plated by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

A small useful plate chest, containing a set, guaranteed of first quality for finish and durability, as follows:—

	Old Silver	Thread or Pattern.	Bronzite Pattern.	Kings Pattern.	Military Pattern.	£ s. d.					
12 Table Forks.....	1 18 0	2 8 0	3 0 0	3 10 0							
12 Table Spoons.....	1 18 0	2 8 0	3 0 0	3 10 0							
12 Dessert Forks.....	1 10 0	1 15 0	2 0 0	2 10 0							
12 Dessert Spoons.....	1 10 0	1 15 0	2 0 0	2 10 0							
12 Tea Spoons.....	0 18 0	1 4 0	1 10 0	1 18 0							
6 Egg Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 12 0	0 15 0	0 18 0	1 1 0							
2 Sauce Ladles.....	0 7 0	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 16 0							
2 Salt Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 13 0	0 16 0							
1 Mustard Spoon, gilt bowl.....	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 6							
1 Pair of Sugar Tongs.....	0 3 0	0 3 9	0 5 0	0 7 0							
1 Pair of Fish Carvers.....	1 4 0	1 7 6	1 12 0	1 18 0							
1 Butter Knife.....	0 3 6 0	0 5 9 0	0 7 0 0	0 8 0							
1 Soup Ladle.....	0 12 0	0 17 6	1 0 0	1 1 0							
1 Sugar Sifter.....	0 4 0	0 4 9 0	0 5 9 0	0 8 6							
Total.....	11 14 6	14 11 8	13 17 4	14 9 21 4 9							

Any article to be had singly at the same prices. An oak chest to contain the above, and a relative number of knives, &c., 2*s. 1*ds.** Tea and Coffee Sets, Crust, and Liqueur Frames, Waiters, Candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of replating done by the patent process.

DISH COVERS and HOT WATER DISHES, in every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherché patterns. Tin dish covers, 7*s. 6*ds.** the set of six; block tin, 1*2*s. to 2*s.*** the set; the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 3*s. 6*ds.** to 6*s. 6*ds.** the set; Britannia metal, with or without silver plated handles, 4*s. 1*ds.** to 6*s. 6*ds.** the set; Sheffield plated, 1*0*s. to 1*s. 6*ds.**** the set; block tin hot water dishes, with wells for gravy, 1*2*s. to 2*s.***; Britannia metal, 2*s. to 7*s.**; electro-plated on nickel, full size, 1*1*s. 1*ds.***.

WILLIAM S. BURTON'S GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY CATALOGUE may be had gratis, and free by post. It contains upwards of 400 illustrations of his illuminated Stock of Electro and Sheffield Plate, Nickel Silver and Britannia Metal goods, Stoves, Fenders, Marble Mantelpieces, Clocks, Table Cutlery, Baths and Toilet Ware, Turnery, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, Bed Hangings, &c. &c. with Lists of Prices, and Plans of the Sixteen large Show Rooms, at 39, Oxford-street, W.; 1, 1*2*s.** and 3, Newman-street; and 4, 5, and 6, Perry's place, London.—ESTABLISHED 1820.

FRENCH MODERATOR LAMPS.—The newest patterns of the present season—Deane, Dray, and Co. have completed an extensive and choice assortment of these Lamps: Bronze from 9*s. 6*ds.** to 6*s.* China from 1*s. 6*ds.** to 7*s. each*. Engravings with prices free per post. Pure Colza Oil for the above Lamps at the lowest market price, delivered in London or the suburbs periodically, or on receipt of letter order. Deane, Dray, and Co. (opening to the Monument), London-bridge. Established A.D. 1700.

COCOA-NUT FIBRE MATTING. TRELOAR'S IS THE BEST. Prize Medals awarded—London, New York, and Paris. Catalogues, containing Prices and every particular, post free. Warehouse, 42, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

A NEW DISCOVERY, whereby Artificial Teeth and Gums are fitted with absolute perfection and success hitherto unattainable. No springs or wires, no extraction of roots, or any painful operation. This important invention perfects the beautiful art of the dentist a closeness of fit and beauty of appearance being obtained equal to nature. All imitations should be carefully avoided, the genuine being only supplied by Messrs. GABRIEL, the old-established Dentists, from 3*s. 6*ds.** per Tooth—Sets, 4*s. 4*ds.**. Observe name and number particularly. 35, Ludgate-hill, London (five doors west of the Old Bailey); and 134, Duke-street, Liverpool. Established 1804.

Prepared White Gutta Percha Enamel, the best Stopping for decayed Teeth, renders them sound and useful in mastication, no matter how far decayed, and effectually prevents Toothache.—In boxes, with directions, at 1*s. 6*ds.** free by post, 2*s. stamps.* Sold by most Chemists in Town and Country. Ask for Gabriel's Gutta Percha Enamel.—See opinions of the Press thereon.

A BONUS DIVISION

will be made at 31st December, 1858, of Profits on the Life Policies on the participating scale taken out before the close of the present year, 1857, in the:—

GLOBE INSURANCE,
CORNHILL & CHARING-CROSS, LONDON.
ESTABLISHED 1803.

Capital ONE MILLION, All paid-up and invested.

Fowler NEWSHAM, Esq.—Chairman.
John Edward JOHNSON, Esq.—Deputy-Chairman.
George Carr GLYN, Esq., M.P.—Treasurer.

FIRE, LIFE, ANNUITY, ENDOWMENT, and REVERSIONARY business transacted.

WILLIAM NEWMARCH, Secretary.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Briton Life Association will be held at the Chief Offices, No. 32, Moorgate-street, London, on Wednesday, the 6th of January, 1858, at One o'clock, p.m., for the purpose of receiving the Director's Report and Balance Sheet for the past year, the election of Directors and Auditors, the Declaration of a Dividend, and for the transaction of the ordinary business of such Meetings.

By order of the Board.

JOHN MESSENT, Secretary.

21st December, 1857.

ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.**£1000 IN CASE OF DEATH, OR****A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF £6 PER WEEK
IN THE EVENT OF INJURY,**

May be secured by an Annual Payment of £3 for a Policy in the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

A special Act provides that persons receiving compensation from this Company are not barred thereby from recovering full damages from the party causing the injury; an advantage no other Company can offer.

It is found that ONE PERSON in every FIFTEEN is more or less injured by Accident yearly. This Company has already paid as compensation for Accidents 27,988*£*.

Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had at the Company's Offices, and at all the principal Railway Stations, where also, Railway Accidents alone may be insured against by the Journey or year.

NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.

Railway Passengers' Assurance Company,
Offices, 3, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

39, King-street, Cheapside, London.

ESTABLISHED 1834.

The friends of the Society, and the general public, are respectfully advised that any assurances effected within the present year, will have the advantage of one year in every present bonus.

CHARLES INGALL, ACTUARY.

ARGUS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

39, Throgmorton-street, Bank.

CHAIRMAN—THOMAS FARNCOMB, Esq., Alderman.
DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN—WILLIAM LEAF, Esq.
Richard E. Arden, Esq. Rupert Ingobly, Esq.
Edward Bates, Esq. Saffory W. Johnson, Esq.
Professor Hall, M.A. Jeremiah Pitcher, Esq.
John Humphry, Esq., Ald. Lewis Pocock, Esq.

PHYSICIAN—Dr. Jeaffreson, 2, Finsbury-square.
SURGEON—W. Coulson, Esq., 2, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.

ACTUARY—George Clark, Esq.

ADVANTAGES OF ASSURING IN THIS COMPANY.

The Premiums are on the lowest scale consistent with security.

The assured are protected by an ample subscribed capital—an Assurance Fund of 450,000*£*. invested on Mortgage and in the Government Stocks, and an income of 5,000*£*. a year.

Premiums to Assure 100*£*. Whole Term.

Age.	One Year.	Seven Years.	With Profits.	Without Profits.
20	£0 17 8	£0 19 9	£1 15 10	£1 11 10
30	1 1 3	1 2 7	2 5 5	2 0 7
40	1 5 0	1 6 9	3 0 7	2 14 10
50	1 14 1	1 19 10	4 6 8	4 0 11
60	3 2 4	3 17 0	6 12 9	6 0 10

MUTUAL BRANCH.

Assurers on the Bonus system are entitled, at the end of five years, to participate in nine-tenths, or 90 per cent of the profits.

The profit assigned to each policy can be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be received in cash.

At the first division a return of 20 per cent. in cash, on the premiums paid, was declared; this will allow a reversionary increase, varying according to age, from 6*s.* to 28*s.* on the premiums, or from 5 to 15 per cent. on the sum assured.

The profit assigned to each policy can be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be received in cash.

Loans upon approved security.

No charge for policy stamps.

Medical attendants paid for their reports.

Persons may, in time of peace, proceed to, or reside in, any part of Europe, or British North America, without extra charge.

The medical officers attend every day, at a quarter before two o'clock.

E. BATES, Resident Director.

DEAFNESS, NOISES IN THE HEAD. Turkish Treatment by a Retired Surgeon from the Crimea (who was himself perfectly cured). Just published, a book, SELF-CURE, free by post for six stamps. Surgeon COLSTON, M.R.C.S., 6, Leicester-place, Leicester-square, London. At home from 11 to 4, to receive visits from patients.

**MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE.
THE WHOLE PROFITS DIVIDED AMONGST
THE ASSURED.****THE SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE
ASSURANCE SOCIETY.**

INSTITUTED 1831.

INCORPORATED BY SPECIAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
The Fund accumulated from the Contributions of Members exceeds ONE MILLION STERLING.

The Annual Revenue exceeds ONE HUNDRED and SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND POUNDS.

The Amount of Existing Assurances exceeds FOUR MILLIONS AND THREE QUARTERS.

The Amount paid to the Representatives of Deceased Members is upwards of Nine Hundred Thousand Pounds, of which One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds consisted of Bonus Additions.

A Division of Profits is made every Three Years, the Division being at 1st March, 1839.

HEAD OFFICE:
26, St. Andrew-square, Edinburgh.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, Manager.

WILLIAM FINLAY, Secretary.

LONDON OFFICE:

26, Poultry, E.C.

ARCHD. T. RITCHIE, Agent.

WESTERN LONDON OFFICE:

64, James's-street, Westbourne-terrace, W.

CHARLES B. LEVER, Solicitor, Agent.

**PERFECT SECURITY :
Capital, FIVE MILLIONS Sterling.****ALLIANCE
BRITISH AND FOREIGN
LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY,**

Bartholomew-lane, London, E.C.

Established 1824.

(Branch Offices: Edinburgh, Ipswich, and Bury St. Edmunds.)

* * * The Receipts for the Renewal Premiums due at Christmas are ready for delivery at the Office in Town, and at the several Agencies throughout the Country.

F. A. ENGELBACH.

Actuary and Secretary.

ESTABLISHED 1838.

VICTORIA AND LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 18, King William-street, City.

DIRECTOR.

BENJAMIN HAWES, Esq., Chairman.

THOMAS NESBITT, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

Charles Baldwin, Esq.

W. K. Jameson, Esq.

George Denny, Esq.

John Jones, Esq.

J. C. Dimdale, Esq.

John Nolloth, Esq.

William Elliot, M.D.

Meaburn Staniland, Esq.

Robert Ellis, Esq.

Daniel Sutton, Esq.

J. P. Giassi, Esq., F.R.S.

Walter Charles Venning, Esq.

John Gladstone, Esq.

Arthur Cunyngham, Esq.

Sidney Gurney, Esq.

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The business of the Company embraces every description of risk connected with Life Assurance.

The Assets of the Company exceed 250,000*£*.

And its Income is over 60,000*£*. a year.

Advances in connexion with Life Assurance are made on advantageous terms, either on real or personal security.

WILLIAM RATRAY, Actuary.

INCREASED RATE OF INTEREST.—The

Bank of England having this day advanced the rate of Discount, the Directors of the DEPOSIT AND DISCOUNT BANK are prepared to give SEVEN per cent. on all sums from 20*s.* and upwards, until further notice.

Chairman—The EARL OF DEVON.

6, Cannon-street West, E.C. G. H. LAW, Manager.

October 12, 1857.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847.

LETTERS OF CREDIT and BILLS are granted at par upon the Banks at Adelaide, Port Adelaide, and Gawler. Approved drafts on South Australia negotiated and sent for collection.

Every description of Banking business is conducted direct with Victoria and New South Wales, and also with the other Australian Colonies, through the Company's Agents.

Apply at the Offices, No. 54, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.

London, December, 1857.

LOAN AND INVESTMENT AGENCY ASSOCIATION.

Chief Office, 9, Adam-street, Strand, W.C.

Loans of any amount, from 20*s.* on real and other securities.

140,000 trust funds ready to be invested.

R. T. JOPLING, Actuary.

COLOURED MAPS GRATIS—A PLAN

OF MANCHESTER will be presented gratis with the Dispatch on Sunday next, December 27th. A truly beautiful coloured "Double Map of Asia" will be given on

Sunday, January 3rd; and a coloured map will be issued every week, gratis, with each copy of the Dispatch, to form the most perfect and useful atlas ever published.

The back numbers of the atlas are kept constantly on sale, so that the work may be made complete from the commencement at any time, and at the perfect convenience of the purchaser.

Any map of the series may be had with the newspaper of the current week, or with any copy not out of print.

The price of the Dispatch is—unstamped, 5*s.*; stamped (to go free by post) 6*s.* The Friday evening edition may be received in the most distant parts of the kingdom on Saturday morning.

Portfolios, with spring clipped backs, are now ready, price 3*s. 6*ds.**, 4*s. 6*ds.**, and upwards.

Orders received by all news agents, and at the office, 190, Fleet-street, London.

FRAZER'S MAGAZINE for JANUARY, 1858, price 2s. 6d., contains:
On the Life and Writings of Henry Fielding. By Thomas Keightley. In Two Parts.—Part the First.
Lady Stratmore's Daughter. By the Author of "May of Elbæk." Chapters I. to V.
A Visit to the Châteaux of Rubens and Teniers.
Table-Talk on Shakespeare. "Love's Labour's Lost."
London: JOHN W. PARKER and Son, West Strand.

THE BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW.
No. LIII., price 6s., will be published JANUARY 1.
CONTENTS:
I. JOHN GOWER AND HIS WORKS.
II. THORNDALE — THE CONFLICT OF MODERN THOUGHT.
III. METEORIC STONES AND COMETS.
IV. DE FOE.
V. DR. LIVINGSTONE'S AFRICAN RESEARCHES.
VI. PROJECTED COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE EAST.
VII. FREYTAG'S DEBT AND CREDIT—GERMAN LIFE.
VIII. THE BANK ACTS AND THE CREDIT CRISIS OF 1857.
IX. GREYSON'S LETTERS—CLAIMS OF THE DOUBTER.
X. INDIA AS IT IS—INDIA AS IT MAY BE.
XI. OUR EPilogue ON AFFAIRS AND BOOKS.
London: JACKSON and WALFORD, 18, St. Paul's Church-yard; and SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, and Co., Stationers' Hall-court.

On December 31 will be published, price 5s., the
NATIONAL REVIEW. No. XI.
CONTENTS:
I. PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
II. GEORGE SAND.
III. COLONEL MURE AND THE ATTIC HISTORIANS.
IV. HASHISH.
V. BEN JONSON.
VI. THE CZAR NICHOLAS.
VII. THE WORLD OF MIND BY ISAAC TAYLOR.
VIII. MR. COVENTRY PAYMORE'S POEMS.
IX. CIVILISATION AND FAITH.
X. THE MONETARY CRISIS.
XI. BOOKS OF THE QUARTER SUITABLE FOR READING SOCIETIES.
CHAPMAN and HALL, 190, Piccadilly.

On January 1st, 1858, will be published, No. XIII. of the New Series of
THE ECLECTIC REVIEW; a Critical Journal of British and Foreign Literature. Under the superintendence of J. E. BYLAND, M.A., assisted by able and well-known Contributors.

Articles will appear on The Life and Writings of Chrysostom. The History of Christian Civilization and Christianity in the Fine Arts—The Atheism of Geology—The Life of Stephenson—Modern Judaism—and the Progress of Science in the Year 1857; a Quarterly Review of French Literature by Gustave Masson, and numerous Notices of Books. The Monthly Review of Public Affairs will be resumed with the January Number.

The Eclectic Review is the oldest and only monthly organ of Evangelical Nonconformists. Its present literary merit is equal to that of the period when it included among its contributors the first of Christian Essayists and the first of Christian Orators, and the names of Pye Smith, Gregory, and Montgomery. Price 1s. 6d., Monthly.

WARD and Co., Paternoster-row.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW.
NEW SERIES.
No. XXV. JANUARY, 1858. Price 6s.

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I. AFRICAN LIFE.
II. SPIRITS AND SPIRIT-RAPPING.
III. MORAYSHIRE.
IV. SHELLEY.
V. THE RELIGIOUS WEAKNESS OF PROTESTANTISM.
VI. THE CRISIS AND ITS CAUSES.
VII. THE ENGLISH IN INDIA.
VIII. STATE-TAMPERINGS WITH MONEY AND BANES.
CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE:—§ 1. Theology and Philosophy.—§ 2. Politics and Education.—§ 3. Science.—§ 4. History, Biography, Voyages and Travels.—§ 5. Belles Lettres and Art.
London: JOHN CHAPMAN, 8, King William-street, Strand.

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